Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-123
Monday
27 June 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-123 *27 June 1988*

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LD2706134188 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Presidential Guards and III Army Corps recaptured the Majnun Islands from Iran during over 8 hours of "glorious battles" on 25 June, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique indicated that the Guards launched a frontal attack on the two islands in the Hawr al-Hawizah marshes, while the III Army Corps advanced in Iranian territory east of the islands, cutting them off and preventing Iran from sending reinforcements.

Iraq's VI Army Corps subsequently launched attacks in other parts of Hawr al-Hawizah, driving the Iranians out of all parts of the marsh which are Iraqi territory, according to another communique carried by the radio. A military spokesman cited by the radio stressed that Iraqi forces withdrew from any Iranian territory which they occupied during these operations, in which 2,115 Iranians were taken prisoner and large quantities of equipment were captured.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn lauded the Iraqi successes in remarks reported by INA, stressing that the liberation of the Majnun Islands was "the last of the difficult battles" as the army has now recaptured "the major and most difficult parts" of Iraqi territory. The president also told Iraqi officials that Iranian measures in the Majnun Islands during the 4 years of occupation indicate that Iran intended to retain the area and exploit its large oil reserves, according to Voice of the Masses. The Iraqi oil minister described the liberated Majnun area as one of Iraq's "giant" oil fields with reserves estimated at 30 billion barrels, INA noted.

For Iran's part, IRNA announced that the Muslim forces defending the Majnun Islands were "forced to retreat to new positions because of the enemy's heavy poison gas attacks." These forces, which put up a "heroic resistance" against the "huge" use of military equipment in the attack, were not Iranian but consisted of personnel from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, the agency said. Iranian jets supported the ground forces by raiding Iraqi targets in the Majnun area 25-26 June, according to IRNA and Tehran radio reports. Meanwhile, an Iraqi source cited by INA denied Iran's claim that Iraq used chemical weapons during the battles in the marshes.

In another allegation of Iraqi use of chemical weapons, IRNA reported that over 60 Iranians were killed and about 4,000 injured in an Iraqi chemical attack on areas near Ahvaz 25 June. Most of the injuries were caused by nerve and cyanide gas, the agency said. A list of Iraqi air strikes that day announced by Baghdad radio did not mention Ahvaz, but noted raids on a television station, a bridge, a military camp, several field headquarters, and two Hawk missile batteries. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian claim that an Iraqi plane was downed over the southern front 25 June.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni issued a decree appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Shaykh Mohammad Yazdi a member of the Council of Guardians, according to Tehran radio. The decree wished Yazdi success in drafting laws that will "assist the deprived and oppressed." IRNA noted that Yazdi, a former deputy speaker of the Majlis, succeeds Lotfollah Safi, who was Council secretary.

Khomeyni received a group of Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah and others on 26 June, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Inter-Palestinian Fighting—Fatah "dissidents" of the "provisional command" under Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha (Abu Musa) halted their bombardment of Shatila refugee camp 27 June to allow Libyan observers to enter the area and arrange the evacuation of Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, AFP reported. 'Arafat's men remained in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. The agency noted that the evacuation of PLO loyalists from Shatila follows almost 2 months of fighting with Abu Musa's forces in which 94 people were killed and some 500 wounded.

The Libyan observers moved into Shatila in the wake of 'Arafat's visit to Libya over the weekend, during which he discussed the situation in the Beirut camps with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, according to Algiers Voice of Palestine radio. TANJUG stated that Al-Qadhdhafi was mediating between 'Arafat and Abu Musa, who was also in Libya. 'Arafat's arrival in Libya 25 June and his departure later the same day were reported by Tripoli television and Voice of Greater Homeland radio.

The inter-Palestinian clashes over the weekend left 12 people dead and 44 injured, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which noted that casualties included two Syrian soldiers who were killed when a shell hit their post in the Burj al-Barajinah area. A Fatah official cited by the radio stated that the Shatila refugee camp has been "completely destroyed" in the latest shelling. In a cable to Arab leaders broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, 'Arafat likewise contended that the remnants of the Palestinian camps in Beirut have been destroyed, and he claimed it is "crystal clear" that this is the result of "a decision to annihilate life in these camps" and remove them prior to striking at the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The "insane" shelling came from areas under the control of the Syrian Army, he added, and it continued despite repeated PLO appeals for Syrian intervention to stop the bombardment. For Syria's part, Information Minister Muhammad Salman stressed that Syria wants the fighting to stop, but he added that it does not want to intervene physically by confiscating weapons from the warring parties, Damascus radio reported.

Eastern Lebanon—A large Israeli force advanced northward toward Rashayya the night of 26 June and arrested six local inhabitants, Beirut radio reported. The IDF force comprises around 500 soldiers and 30 armored vehicles, the radio said.

Further north, Syrian troops fired at an Iranian diplomatic car in Ba'labakk 26 June, wounding two Hizballah members, according to AFP.

PLO

Bassam Abu Sharif defended his recent article in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, and he maintained that it was "distorted" by the Beirut paper AL-SAFIR in translation from English into Arabic. Abu Sharif, who is an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, claimed that the PFLP and other Palestinian factions criticized the article before reading it. A PFLP official cited by the radio condemned Abu Sharif's article and held 'Arafat responsible for issuing it.

Israel

Shamir on PLO Negotiations—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "categorically denied" a London SUNDAY TIMES story that claimed he authorized direct negotiations with the PLO, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Dr. Ahmad Tibi, the alleged "go-between" in the negotiations, was "surprised" by Shamir's denial but refused to confirm or deny the SUNDAY TIMES story, MA'ARIV stated.

Saudi Funding for Missiles—Saudi Arabia has promised to fund Syria's purchase of Chinese M-9 missiles, YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed. In return, Syria agreed to use the missiles "against Israeli population centers" should Israel attack Saudi surface-to-surface missile installations, the report claimed. An official in Shamir's office told Jerusalem radio that the government was "concerned to a very large extent by these developments."

Japanese Foreign Minister's Visit—Sosuke Uno linked improved Japanese-Israeli economic ties to progress in the peace negotiations, Jerusalem radio noted. In talks with Shamir, the Japanese Foreign Minister stressed the Palestinian right to self-determination and deplored conditions in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. Shamir called Japan "the only great power that still takes account of the Arab boycott" and denounced "the wave of anti-Semitic literature sweeping Japan," the report revealed. Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported that Uno also met with a group of Palestinian notables.

Occupied Territories—Several "terrorist squads" with "links" to Islamic Jihad were uncovered by security forces and the Jerusalem police, Jerusalem radio reported. Thirteen Palestinians were wounded in a riot and car stoning incident in Nabulus, according to another radio report. A reserve soldier was stabbed by four Arabs who tried to grab his rifle in the Tel Aviv area, the radio noted. Al-Am'ari refugee camp residents accused an IDF paratroop patrol of using a hypodermic needle and a hatchet to intimidate residents "under questioning," THE JERUSALEM POST claimed. Camp residents said soldiers "used the needle to inject persons and threaten others," the paper reported.

Egypt

Alleged Espionage in U.S.—A U.S. Justice Department statement on the arrest of four persons caught trying to smuggle forbidden material to Egypt was "meant to damage Egyptian-U.S. relations," AL-AHRAM contended in an article cited by MENA. Those involved in the attempt to ship heat-resistant carbon fibers to Egypt may not have known that they needed an export license, AL-AHRAM claimed, and Egyptian establishments "have never been accustomed to violating rules or to undertaking espionage activities or to stealing confidential U.S. military documents."

A related MENA report on the issue noted that the Justice Department has accused five people of trying to illegally export the material, which is used in the construction of missile nose cones. Two of the accused are Egyptians, one of whom works for the Egyptian Embassy and has diplomatic immunity. Egyptian officials are holding contacts with U.S. authorities to learn further details about the incident, MENA disclosed.

Southern Africa Talks—Egypt's hosting of the quadripartite peace negotiations will not affect its relations with Africa, according to a Foreign Ministry source cited by Cairo radio. AL-AHRAM likewise stressed that Egypt has had no contacts with the RSA, and that all arrangements for the arrival of the South African delegation in Cairo were made through the United States, MENA noted. Both MENA and Cairo radio covered the progress of the talks, and the radio reported on a press conference by the Angolan external relations minister in which he contended that the arrival of a Soviet envoy in Cairo "neither influenced the course of the talks nor made them more difficult."

Relations With Algeria—A row between Egyptian and Algerian newspapers has halted the improvement in bilateral relations and has led Egypt to withdraw its charge d'affaires from Algiers for "consultations," AFP reported, citing a diplomatic source in Algiers. The charge was recalled after "bitter exchanges" between

Egypt's AL-AKHBAR and Algeria's AL-SHA'B over Egypt's treatment at the recent summit conference, AFP noted. AL-AKHBAR criticized Algeria for not inviting the charge to the opening session along with other members of the diplomatic corps, but AL-SHA'B responded by accusing Egypt of being "undignified." AL-AHRAM subsequently denounced as "banal" an Algerian newspaper article which described Egypt as "insignificant and without a role."

Syria

During a 25 June press conference in Bonn reported by Damascus television, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' referred to Britain's "disgraceful" role in the Middle East since World War I, and he accused the British Government of failing to react appropriately to "violations" of British sovereignty by the Israeli intelligence service. Al-Shar', who was speaking after participating in an Arab-European dialogue meeting, also welcomed the European side's "understanding and appreciation" of Syria's role in working toward national accord, security, and peace in Lebanon.

Jordan

Crown Prince Hasan told Japanese journalists 23 June of his concern that the United States may not be giving the Middle East problem the attention it deserves, the JORDAN TIMES reported. Hasan said it is "extremely worrying" to see prospects for an international conference jeopardized by the low priority given to the Middle East conflict in superpower discussions.

On the internal situation, a 25 June JORDAN TIMES article deplored the "lack of political institutions" in Jordan, and called for the gradual reintroduction of political parties and the election of a new parliament.

Sudan

Sudan expects that the Ethiopian authorities will expel the SPLA if the latter does not leave Ethiopian territory of its own accord, the government spokesman disclosed in remarks reported by Omdurman National Unity radio 25 June. The spokesman warned Kenya against hosting John Garang's movement, stressing that the opening of SPLA offices in Kenya will be regarded as a "hostile act."

Meanwhile, the SPLA's clandestine radio announced that Garang has appointed 11 former Anya Nya 2 officers as commanders in the SPLA. SUNA had earlier reported that Anya Nya 2 forces were cooperating with government forces in expelling the SPLA from the Bentiu and Mayom districts of the Upper Nile area.

Afghanistan

A fire at Kabul airport destroyed eight Soviet SU-25 fighter-bombers, diplomatic sources told AFP. The fire was caused by rebels who fired rockets at the airport and residential areas of Kabul, TASS noted. Kabul radio stated that two persons were killed in the attack. AFP further reported that rebel groups recently shot down four Afghan Air Force aircraft and a helicopter gunship with "sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles." The mujahidin reportedly used Stinger and Blowpipe surface-to-air missiles, the report stated.

Pakistan

As the second step toward "enforcement of the Islamic system," President Ziaul Haq introduced an "Islamic economic system" in a national address on Islamabad radio. The government's "top most priority" is to establish an "interest-free economy," Zia said. He introduced new government welfare plans and announced an income tax "in addition to zakat" for "the person who earns more than a specified amount." Tax evaders will be "taken to task," he said, and smugglers "dealt with more sternly than before."

Nine persons were confirmed dead after a bomb exploded 25 July in a Peshawar hotel, the radio reported. The blast completely destroyed two floors of the hotel and rescue work continues, the report noted.

Islamic Jihad Threat

The Islamic Jihad Organization, in a signed letter delivered to the Cypriot newspaper ELEVTHEROTIPIA, warned that it will "continue its terrorist activities" until Muslim prisoners are released and Muslim "occupied lands" are free, the paper reported. The letter demanded Palestinian rights, the withdrawal of U.S. forces "from all the Islamic states and seas," and the release of all "faithful sons of Allah" from prisons in Turkey, Egypt, Kuwait, France, and "elsewhere." It stated: "We shall continue hijacking aircraft and ships, and also killing the enemies of the Islamic world" until the demands are met.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Affirms Readiness To Meet U.S. Officials

JN2706103288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jun (WAKH)—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said that in a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat affirmed his readiness to embark on peace procedures and to meet with U.S. officials in any European or Arab capital in preparation for an international conference.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published in Abu Dhabi today quoted these sources as saying that the message which was conveyed by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the charge d'affaires of the PLO office in Cairo, to the Egyptian president includes 'Arafat's rejection of the U.S. proposal that Washington names some of the Palestinian figures from whom the members of the Palestinian delegation to any peace negotiations may be chosen.

'Arafat informed the Egytgian president that the form and members of the delegation is an issue to be determined only by the Palestinian decision-making apparatus.

Abu Sharif Urges U.S. 'Tangible Steps' on PLO

JN2706093088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jun (WAKH)—Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has called on the U.S. Administration to take tangible steps toward opening a direct dialogue with the PLO.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD published today, Abu Sharif said that the U.S. Administration's failure to take such a step only means that it is hostile to the Palestinian people and their national aspirations.

Abu Sharif added that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is ready to receive a U.S. envoy. He indicated that direct contact between the PLO and the U.S. Administration is now requried more than ever before if the United States is really concerned about establishing peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian official denied that the article he had written for a U.S. paper was submitted as a document to the U.S. Administration. He said: However, if Washington considers it a document, this is good and we await its reaction.

Abu Sharif reiterated his article was a clear and frank statement to the Israelis, and nobody else, "although we knew that the U.S. Administration would become acquainted with it." Addressing the Israelis, he stated: We want to negotiate with them. We tell those chosen by the Israelis as their representatives that we are ready to negotiate with you in order to reach a solution within an international conference which guarantees the safety and security of all the area states, including the Palestinian state. He added: This is a Palestinian proposal oriented toward a just peace.

Abu Sharif expressed confidence that a transitional period during which the occupied Palestinian land would be put under UN supervision would secure freedom of speech for the Palestinians inside the occupied land and for other Palestinians outside the occupied land.

Concluding his statement, Abu Sharif affirmed that despite proposing peace, the Palestinians will continue to resist the occupation under all circumstances until the occupiers leave their land.

Further Reaction to Bassam Abu Sharif Statement

U.S. Initial Response Cited

JN2606074388 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Khalid al-Hasan, a high-ranking 'Arafat aide, has stated that the U.S. Administration has not yet replied to suggestions made by Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's advisor, in the document he handed to the U.S. Embassy in Algiers recently. Al-Hasan admitted, in an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES published in the U.S. capital yesterday, to contacts with the United States during the past 20 years.

'Arafat stated that he had not received a reply to what was announced in his advisor's document. The U.S. Department of State announced that Abu Sharif's document contained positive elements which showed change in the PLO's stand toward Israel.

PFLP Official Condemns Article

JN2506130988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Palestinian reactions to the statement by Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, to THE WASHINGTON POST [as heard] 10 days ago continue. Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP assistant secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, today renewed his condemnation of what he called the serious document distributed by Bassam Abu Sharif. He affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat is personally responsible for the issuance of that document because 'Arafat asked one of his personal advisers to hand it to one of the Arab rulers to convey it to the U.S. Administration. Abu 'Ali Mustafa urged the PLO Central Council to hold an urgent meeting to shoulder its responsibilities toward the current political tampering with the Palestinian national arena and the PLO.

Abu Sharif Defends Statement

JN2506192088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Antoine Nawfal in Tunis on 25 June; carried on the "It Happened Tomorrow Program"—live or recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] It is well known that Bassam Abu Sharif's statements, which he disseminated during the Algiers summit and in which he talked about the PLO's readiness to directly negotiate with Israel within the framework of an international conference, stirred a whirlpool of violent and contradictory reactions whether on the Palestinian, Israeli, or U.S. levels. Even Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] group threatened to assassinate Bassam Abu Sharif and likened him to 'Isam Sartawi, who was assassinated in Portugal in 1983. Abu Nidal's group then claimed responsibility for the assassination.

We have with us, directly from Tunis, Bassam Abu Sharif. Brother Bassam, we have many questions which we would like to ask. These include, of course: Does Yasir 'Arafat approve of your statements? And if Yasir 'Arafat approves, why does Faruq Qaddumi criticize them? Consequently, why has Abu Nidal made threats? There are many question. However, before we begin our questions, I would first like to review the literal text of these statements. Do you have them before you so that we can review them together?

[Abu Sharif] First of all, I would like to point out that what was reported by news agencies and newspapers and what was commented on by various organizations and quarters was actually an article which I wrote some time ago. I was planning to publish it at the end of May, when the superpower summit was held in Moscow. The summit, which naturally took place, was supposed to discuss the Middle East issue. The article explains in a simple, direct, and unequivocal language what the PLO wants. It was an attempt to explain in a simple, clear, and direct manner the PNC resolutions, and specifically, the basic resolution in which the PNC defined our tool or mechanism of action to reach a just solution and a comprehensive peace in the region.

As is known, the PNC stated in its 18th session, as it did in previous sessions, that the PLO is ready to participate in an international Middle East peace conference provided that it is effective and would be attended by the Security Council permanent member states as well as the PLO and the other concerned parties for the sake of realizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights: the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent state.

I began my article by stating that there are points on which agreement could be reached. I discussed the points raised in the face of the PLO point by point in order to reply to them and to explain the Palestinians' viewpoint about them. For instance, I discussed Resolution 242 and said: It is always reported that the PLO's approval of Resolution 242 is essential so that the PLO becomes qualified for participation in the peace process.

I said in the article that we, the Palestinians, agree to Resolution 242. But our agreement is conditional, not because of what this resolution contains but because of what it does not contain. The resolution calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. We naturally support this and we are fighting for it. We are resisting occupation so that it will be terminated. I said in the article that our acceptance of this resolution is conditional on the acceptance of the other UN resolutions because the latter give our people their national legitimate rights—their right to self-determination and what follows self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

[Nawfal] But the phrase used in the article is that of the PLO's readiness to hold direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of the international conference. What do you mean by this phrase?

[Abu Sharif] This is another point of the points I dealt with one by one. I said yes and, of course, continue to say so. The PNC decided that the PLO is ready to negotiate with the Israelis within the framework of an international conference. I explained what the PNC meant when it unanimously agreed, and I repeat unanimously, and this is recorded in the PNC books that we will go to an international conference in which all concerned parties participate for the sake of negotiating a just solution and realizing the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

This means that when we go to the international conference we go so to negotiate with the Israelis because they are our enemies and the ones who are occupying our land. But if some think we will go to the international conference to negotiate with Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, or even the Soviet Union and the United States they will then be mistaken. These parties will participate in the international conference because they are concerned with the peace process. As for negotiations, yes we will go to negotiate with our enemies so that they leave our land for the sake of establishing peace in the region—peace based on justice and the Palestinian people's attainment of their national legitimate rights.

[Nawfal] Regarding the direct negotiations which you outlined in your article, are they direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations apart from the Arab countries?

[Abu Sharif] I said that the Palestinians are ready to negotiate with the Israelis within the framework of an international conference. The framework that we propose is a way to guarantee positive results. In other words, in this age, under these circumstances, and as a result of the sharp regional and international conflicts, we cannot guarantee the results of the peace negotiations

unless the superpowers, namely the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as the permanent Security Council member states and the concerned parties in the region, do not guarantee the results. These sides' participation is aimed at securing guarantees. Moreover, other Arab sides that have rights will discuss and negotiate these rights during the conference. For example, Syria has the occupied Golan. It is its duty and also its right to participate in the conference to liberate Golan from the occupation and restore it to Syria's sovereignty.

[Nawfal] There are several questions, especially from Washington. Is what Bassam Abu Sharif said binding only on Bassam Abu Sharif or also on Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO?

[Abu Sharif] It is only natural that everyone can voice his opinion under the canopy of Palestinian democracy. He can express it in an article, statement, or even in a song. Similarly, everyone in the Palstinian arena can express his views outside the PLO's program. As you know, many sides express their views outside this program. Moreover, some sides are acting outside the Palestinian ranks. Despite this, we consider them as views proposed in the Palestinian arena.

However, what was written in this article expreses the PLO's program and the PNC resolutions. On the occasion, I think and I am sure that all the brothers who commented negatively on what came in the article had not read it but heard about it. I hope that they will read things in the future instead of hearing them and then commenting on what they hear. I take pride in the unanimity demonstrated by the public opinion in the occupied homeland. I am proud that strugglers inside the occupied territories have expressed their complete and comprehensive support as shown by opinion polls and interviews.

[Nawfal] Before we deal with reactions to your statement, I would like to ask a direct question: Did Yasir 'Arafat agree 100 percent to what you have written?

[Abu Sharif] Brother Yasir 'Arafat did not in fact familiarize himself with the article before it was published. But it is natural and necessary for me to abide by the PLO's program. Now I can repeat to you what he said during his news conference. When he was asked about that article, he said that the U.S. Administration has neither accepted nor rejected it. This means that it did not take any position on it. If the U.S. Administration wants to ask questions about this article, it should ask me directly. Brother Yasir 'Arafat is ready to receive a U.S. enovy if the United States wants to know the PLO's positions.

[Nawfal] What about Faruq Qaddumi's reaction? He said that he did not acquaint himself with the contents of the article, that he objects to its contents, and that he asked the PLO offices in the world not to distribute the article?

[Abu Sharif] I have neither read nor heard such a statement.

[Nawfal] News agencies carried it.

[Abu Sharif] I know that Brother Faruq Qaddumi is in Brazil. I do not blame him if he did not acquaint himself with the article and did not express his views on it. I am afraid that the article was distorted when it was conveyed to him. For example, the newspaper AL-SAFIR published a distorted translation of the article. Today, I translated it accurately, and I will distribute this article so that no side can distort or change it.

[Nawfal] Do you have in front of you now the statement verbatim which created clamor regarding the negotiations?

[Abu Sharif] Yes, the statement says verbatim that we are ready to negotiate with the Israelis within the framework of an international conference. If you like, I will send you the text. At any rate, THE NEW YORK TIMES today published the full text for the first time.

[Nawfal] Including the statement on direct negotiations with Israel?

[Abu Sharif] I said: We will negotiate with the Israelis within the framework of an international conference. This is our stand.

[Nawfal] At any rate, at the news conference Abu 'Ammar held yesterday in the SFRY, the news agencies carried a statement. I do not know whether it was accurate or not. The statement was when Abu 'Ammar said: I cannot negotiate with the Israelis except through an international conference?

[Abu Sharif] No, I was present at the conference. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Yes, we want to negotiate with the Israelis at an international conference, and I will not go to the international conference to negotiate with ghosts or with my Arab brothers because I settle my problems with my Arab brothers at the Arab League and not at an international conference. I will go to the international conference to negotiate with my Israeli enemies.

[Nawfal] There is a strongly worded statement that was issued by the Abu Nidal group in which they describe you as 'Isam al-Sartawi, who was assassinated in Portugal as you know. What is your reply to this accusation?

[Abu Sharif] I really regret this statement. I do not believe that Brother Abu Nidal read the statement before it was issued. The statement was issued in Beirut while Brother Abu Nidal is not in Beirut. At any rate, I know that the Abu Nidal group is basically not with the PLO program. This means that they are basically against the concept of an international conference and against the idea of achieving a solution through negotiations for the sake of achieving the Palestinian people's national and

legitimate rights. They oppose this, and this is their right. In every community you will find political sides that have their own opinions. These opinions might be extremist in this or that direction. However, I do not live in a glass house. When I speak the truth, I fear only God, my homeland, and my people.

[Nawfal] But Brother Bassam, there are negative reactions from other sides. For exmaple, there were reactions from the PFLP and the DFLP?

[Abu Sharif] I have read the PFLP's reaction. I believe that the brothers in the PFLP did not read the article, and the questions that were asked to Dr George Habash were provocative and implicitly include erroneous ideas that at least were not included in my article. For example, it attracted my attention that he considers my proposal on the issue of the transitional period and the referendum an attempt to cast doubts on the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people.

Had he read the article, he would have found that I say verbatim that the Palestinian people have undoubtedly and without ambiguity chosen the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. And despite this, we are ready to hold a referendum under UN auspices on our Palestinian territory during a short-term transitional period so that our people can determine their options and choose their representatives, taking into consideration that the U.S. Administration and other sides will be mistaken and deluded if they believe that they can achieve a lasting solution with any other side they chose or nominate.

[Nawfal] Of course, there were several reactions, as we said, to your statements. I pause at a statement that was made by Bassam al-Shak'ah [former Nabulus mayor]. In this statement, he demands, or in fact he advises that you should have consulted with the Arab states before you proposed this issue, because any issue regarding negotiations with Israel will create differences in the Arab world. Have you personally or has the PLO consulted with the Arab capitals on this?

[Abu Sharif] Bassam al-Shak'ah is a dear brother to all of us. He is a struggler of whom we are proud. However, it also seems that Brother Bassam al-Shak'ah was asked to give his opinion before reading the article. Of course, it is impossible that Basssam al-Shak'ah meant that when we decide on our national program we should consult with the Arab states. We and our Arab brothers form one front against the occupation. Our national program was determined by the Palestinian people's representatives at the PNC. We have determined our national program by ourselves.

We will also chose our national program in the future by ourselves because this is our independent national decision making. However, let my Brother Bassam be reassured that the Arab summit resolutions that were adopted unanimously approved the idea of an international conference and negotiations with the Israelis in the presence of the superpowers to realize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. In fact, the issue of the transitional period under UN auspices was approved by the Algiers summit.

[Nawfal] Now the aim of this statement or article. You have told me that you wrote it in language that would be understood by Western media. What results have this article had in the West and in the United States to begin with?

[Abu Sharif] I wrote the article in English, since Arabic writing must necessarily be different as we have two different mentalities. All that has been said on many occasions has been put together in one article in straightforward, clear language and created a stir. As far as I am concerned, this means that our ideas as Palstinians, which we have expressed by bits and pieces here and there in answering this query or that, have been compiled and created a fuss. This means that we have a just cause, which if we and the Arab League move to explain and promote will sway public opinion, which in turn will pressure these governments to amend their positions in the interests of Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

[Nawfal] Have you received any reaction, naturally indirect, from Washington?

[Abu Sharif] As a matter of fact, all that we have received are public reactions from U.S. officials who have shown an interest in the article. We reiterate 'Arafat's statement that it is high time the United States faced up to the new facts created by the uprising of our valiant people. The uprising will inevitably continue, and I noted in my article that it will continue no matter what until the occupation of our land is ended. It is high time the U.S. Administration saw the truth without trying to hide it with its finger.

[Nawfal] Do you think the article will hasten a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, especially since Abu 'Ammar said in his news conference he is prepared to see an official U.S. envoy?

[Abu Sharif] We are not waging our struggle for its own sake. We seek to achieve tangible results, namely self-determination and statehood. We have no illusions. We are living in international detente, which means that the superpowers have a common desire through give-and-take and negotiations to arrive at some kind of solution to every regional problem. Undoubtedly what is happening in Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and in the Gulf, through public and unannounced negotiations, and what is taking place on the Mideast also, amply demonstrate that there is a will on the part of the influential world powers to solve regional problems.

Our problem, which is among the more intractable ones, will undoubtedly be resolved as our people continue the resistance regardless of the required sacrifices. The heroic uprising against the occupation forces will continue until they are defeated. Of course, we hope the U.S. Administration will understand that any plans or solutions it proposes will not pass as long as they fail to take account of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and an independent state and fail to recognize that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

[Nawfal] But is there anything new in the U.S. position? The U.S. position is of course known. But has there been anything new lately?

[Abu Sharif] Undoubtedly there are clues. We cannot draw many conclusions from them, but they are important and attention-grabbing clues. For example, the Toronto communique of the seven industrialized nations pointed to the need for a solution and said that there can be no return to the old situation in the occupied Palestinian land. The communique also took note of the Palestinian people's uprising.

On the other hand, after his most recent mission, Shultz himself had to say there is a national Palestinian movement. We know that the Palestinian national struggle will attain its objectives, however long it takes. We also know that these forces despite their stubborness in their aggression against our people's rights will eventually have to recognize the facts just as happened in Vietnam, Algeria, and elsewhere.

Here I would like to point out that the friendly Soviet Union, which as I have said in my article is in harmony with our stand, wants the two superpowers to work jointly toward finding a solution. I have no doubt that the friendly Soviet Union will throw its weight behind our efforts to achieve our goals side by side with the other friends.

'Arafat, Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss 'Uprising,' Camps

LD2606192188 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, held lengthy talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. According to an informed Palestinian source, the talks dealt with the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories after the escalation of the Palestinian popular uprising.

According to the same source, Brother Abu 'Ammar's talks with Col al-Qadhdhafi largely focused on the tragic situation in the steadfastness [refugee] camps in Beirut, which have been exposed to unjust criminal attacks by the cliques of revisionism, agentry and their supporters who are affiliated to Arabs and Arabism and who are holding up pan-Arab and progressive slogans.

The source also said that brother leader Abu 'Ammar briefed Col al-Qadhdhafi on the details of the conditions in these camps, especially Shatila camp which has become a ruin due to criminal shelling from all sides. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Cable to Arab Leaders on Camps Fighting

JN2506195988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1704 GMT 25 Jun 88

["Text" of "urgent" cable from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to Arab kings, amirs, and presidents dated 25 June]

[Text] Brothers, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses the Arab kings, presidents, and amirs:

Blessed greetings. I send you this urgent cable concerning the deterioration in the tragic situation experienced in our Palestinian camps in Beirut, particularly the camps of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah. Both of them have been subjected, for the 2d consecutive month, to the ugliest process of total destruction as a result of the insane, intensive shelling by heavy artillery, mortars, and missiles, which ruthlessly fall on the remnants of life in these camps.

The remnants of these camps have been destroyed, leaving only ruins behind. It is crystal clear that there has been a decision to annihilate life in these camps and remove the camps as a prelude to striking at the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Moreover, this vile and insane siege and shelling continue. The shelling takes place from postiions under the Syrian Army's supervision in Lebanon both in the mountains and Beirut. Regrettably, this devastating aggression continues despite all our repeated calls to both the Syrian leadership and Brother President Hafiz al-Asad in person to intervene and stop this destructive shelling and end the continued inhuman aggression of these camps, which are being besieged by death from all directions. These camps are paying a dear price in terms of the souls and the blood of their children, women, and men who have not committed any mistakes or wrongdoing.

The plan being implemented is fueled by our people's defenseless sons. Despite all the efforts exerted by Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to achieve a cease-fire and reach several agreements to stop the shelling and also despite the promises given, the destructive shelling has continued in an insane manner under various slogans and names.

I hopefully appeal to my brothers their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses to exert immediate efforts to end this tragedy and ordeal, which is inconceivable by any

mind or conscience, out of mercy for the camps' residents who are still alive and out of care for our people's uprising in our occupied territories, an uprising which is directly affected by the ordeal of these besieged and destroyed camps.

I repeat my appeal to you. Meanwhile, I am confident that my brothers the Arab kings, presidents, and amirs will spare no efforts to end this ordeal, which has gone beyond all limits and descriptions.

[Signed] Your Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces

Message To Gorbachev on Camps

JN2706074088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] It has been learned from an informed Palestinian source that Yasir 'Arafat gave the Soviet ambassador in Tunis an urgent message for the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message deals with developments in the Palestinian camps in Beirut where fighting between Fatah fighters and fighters from the Fatah dissident movement intensified yesterday following a 24-hour truce.

It appears the PLO's contacts with Algeria, Libya, and Syria to end the fighting did not yield any results, Palestinian sources say.

In a statement released in Damascus yesterday, a spokesman for the Fatah Provisional Command led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] denied that fighters of the Fatah dissident movement shelled the Palestinian camps in Beirut and accused Fatah fighters of shelling the dissidents' positions.

Report on 'Arafat News Conference in East Berlin

JN2306183688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1608 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] At the conclusion of his visit to East Berlin the day before yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, held a news conference. He began by praising the role played by the GDR and its leadership under Chairman Erich Honecker and their continuous support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's just and legitimate struggle to regain their inalienable legitimate rights to self-determination and repatriation, and to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar said that following the assassination of Brother Leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], he received three U.S. warnings, two of which were conveyed through two Arab states and the third through a European state. He indicated it was not the first time that U.S. threats had been directed at the PLO and its leadership. He noted that the attack on the PLO headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunisia in 1985 was a U.S.-Israeli decision. Israeli leaders admitted this and their admissions were relayed by the Israeli and U.S. press and other news media which stressed that the U.S. Administration had an advance knowledge of the attack and gave its approval to the Mosad's plan to assassinate Abu Jihad. These confessions were published in the Israeli and U.S. press and in news agencies, including (?CBS) and (?CNN).

Commenting on the Zionist entity's nuclear weapons, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Israel introduced nuclear weapons into our region, and according to the confessions of Vanunu, an Israeli scientist who is now in prison, they now possess 120 nuclear warheads as well as the long-range Jericho missiles, which can reach central Europe, central Asia, and the southern part of the Soviet Union. This is to be expected from them.

Nevertheless, the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories has forced their hand. Those who met in Toronto for the first time said that what is happening in the occupied West Bank and Gaza requires a quick solution. Regardless of their opinion on a solution, they have admitted for the first time the seriousness and importance of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories. This means that the Palestinian stones have forced the industrialized countries to admit the facts they used to ignore in the region.

In this regard, I recall what Rabin said about 15 days ago at the Strategic Military Sciences Institute in Haifa. He told the institute's students: We, the Israelis, have lost four wars. He said: We lost the 1973 and 1982 wars, as well as the war of attrition in south Lebanon and the stones war. They have lost four wars, three of which were with the Palestinians, with the PLO. The PLO officially participated in the the 1973 war and U.S. President Reagan cannot hide the sun with his fingers.

Replying to another question, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: First of all we are not concerned about presenting accounts to the U.S. Administration. When one of its advisers gives any political opinion, they must either accept it or reject it. If they have a question, let them ask me directly.

Regarding the 7th month of the uprising and its continuation, he told them we have numerous surprises and there are another three stages yet to be implemented against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories. They are: the comprehensive strike, partial civil disobedience, and total civil disobedience. There is yet another stage which I do not wish to discusss. In these stages I have surprises; there are many surprises, including (?fires). Shamir asks who can hold his breath longer. We will wait and see. I would like to tell you something. Before holding the Arab summit, some people told me that the

conference might be delayed so that the uprising would end. I told them: You may want to delay the conference another 6 months, but the uprising will continue.

When I met with Comrade Gorbachev, he asked me: Are you not tired? I answered him: No, for the simple reason that the Palestinian logistics [preceding word in English] are fine and there is an abundance of stones in our country. This uprising will continue one wave after another until the end of the Israeli occupation, regardless of our losses and the racist, fascist, inhuman, and criminal acts being carried out by the Israeli Army and the armed Israeli settlers. As of this morning, we have had 371 martyrs and 1,600 miscarriages due to toxic gases. Even U.S. firms admitted that this gas is toxic for pregnant women. More than 10,000 have been wounded, including 3,400 who have developed permanent disablements, and more than 22,000 have been detained in mass detention camps.

A team of U.S. reporters and physicians spoke about what is happening in the Ansar detention camp No 3 in the Negev. They bring in settlers there who learn how to beat them. They sit chained in open tents while being beaten up by settlers. There is insufficient food and medical care. By their own admission, 2,500 Palestinian cadres are under detention. Moreover, 3,700 houses have been completely demolished. Nevertheless, we will continue.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said we should know that British policy was behind our catastrophe. The League of Nations decided that Palestine and the Palestinian people should be under a British mandate. We were not under British occupation, but we received worse treatment than the people in British colonies. The Balfour Declaration then came and gave our country to another people. We are paying the price of a bargain concluded in Britain between the Jewish agency at that time and Britain. Then they come and talk about the Nazi atrocities against the Jews. We paid the price, as did our people. Sixty percent of our people were expelled from their land because half of the Palestinian villages were completely destroyed and erased from the earth. Forty percent of our people are still under occupation.

Therefore, the British people are politically, historically, and morally responsible for the Palestinian people's catastrophe. The British Government's reply to that is further aid to the Israeli crimes. Lord (Binshirs) wrote a letter in late November 1987 on the Israeli crimes and expected the situation to explode. He sent a message to Thatcher, but Margaret Thatcher considers election votes more important than all the Palestinian people and all principles. Do the British people agree with this policy, to the killing of children? The British people and British public opinion should take a step, and even steps, because they are politically, historically, and morally responsible.

What do we demand? International legality demands the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is the sacred right of all peoples. Thatcher talks about the right to self-determination for 1,800 persons on the Falklands. I would like to ask her: Where is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination? There are today 5.5 million Palestinians and they are directly responsible for the Palestinian people's catastrophe. However, it seems that principles have nothing to do with British policy—the policy of continuous piracy and even the policy of piracy against the people's rights.

The brother commander in chief indicated that Iraq held out as the Palestinians did because it is one battle from Gaza to Basra in defense of this Arab nation. He added: We must penetrate the Israeli siege and blackout. Fewer than 10 percent of the daily crimes that take place against the Palestinian people are published for the simple reason that the areas are declared closed military zones. No information leakes out, and no foreign reporters are allowed in, in addition to the Israeli military censorship. Films are confiscated and news is censored.

I have a namelist of 371 martyrs and they claim there have only been 200 martyrs. I defy them because I have their names. So far they have not mentioned a single miscarriage case. I have hospital reports, some of which were announced by UNRWA. Foreign journalists report that Israel prevents them from sending news or pictures. This is Kissinger's advice which they are implementing very effectively. What did Kissinger say? He said: Kill them but far from cameras and television. This is public advice from Kissinger, which moved no one. This is genocide, and Kissinger should stand trial because he instigates genocide.

Unfortunately, where is world public opinion? I would like to ask the whole world public how they are not moved by this decision. Therefore, I demand all friends, reporters, news agencies, trade unions, doctors, lawyers, women, students, and others to continuously send delegations to break the siege and expose the crimes so that principles and justice will prevail. I do not demand more than the truth.

Dissident Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC2406163488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1545 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] According to Palestinian sources, Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], leader of the Fatah dissidents, was the target of an assassination attempt 2 days ago.

According to the same sources, one of those who opened fire on Abu Musa was arrested. Following the incident, six officers from the Abu Musa group were also arrested.

Meanwhile, differences have been reported between Abu Musa and Abu Khalid al-'Amlah [chief of the PNSF Military Department] over the camps fighting.

Fatah Dissidents Seek Official Recognition

JN2506141388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
23 Jun 88 pp 1, 26

[Text] Tunis—A PLO Executive Committee member has revealed to AL-ANBA' the conditions set by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], leader of the Fatah dissidents, to stop shelling the Palestinian camps in Beirut by the forces he leads. The PLO Executive Committee member, who did not want his name to be mentioned, said Abu Musa asked Yasir 'Arafat, commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to issue a statement declaring a cease-fire in the camps and recognizing the forces of the Fatah uprising movement as an independent Palestinian party and as an equal to the Fatah Central Committee in return for Abu Musa issuing a statement accepting the cease-fire.

The same Executive Committee member also revealed that a Palestinian delegation from Palestinians residing in Damascus led by former PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum held a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The delegation urged Syrian intervention to stop the shelling of the Palestinian camps in Beirut. However, Khaddam rejected this request, justifying his stand that the ongoing fighting there is inter-Palestinian fighting and Syria has nothing to do with it.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Receives Yasir 'Arafat

LD2506201088 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon, President Chadli Bendjedid received a phone call from King Hassan II of Morocco. The head of state has also received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat Comments on Meeting

LD2606115888 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, 26 June (APS)—Following the audience granted to him by President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN party secretary general, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee president, declared:

"I have transmitted to the president the salutation of the Palestinian people particularly after the positive results of the summit that we consider as "the summit of the summits" since it was the summit of the intifadah [uprising], the summit of the Arab solidarity, since it succeeded to gather the greatest number of Arab heads of state and the Maghreb summit.

"On the Palestinian plan, I have informed the president of the evolution of the present situation under all its aspects, the Palestinian Arab and international ones notably, following the visits I have paid to GDR and Yugoslavia." Regarding the situation in the Beirut camps, Yasir 'Arafat indicated that he asked President Chadli Bendjedid to help the Palestinian revolution and people.

Egypt

Reportage on U.S. Technology Smuggling Case

NC2506140888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Washington, 25 Jun (MENA)—Quoting customs officials at Baltimore International Airport, THE WASHINGTON POST reported today that four people have been arrested trying to transport a crate containing carbon composite, a light-weight heat-resistant material used in the construction of the nose cones of missiles.

The paper said that the U.S. Justice Department has issued a statement accusing five people of trying to smuggle technological material to Egypt on board an Egyptian transport aircraft flying out of Baltimore airport, west of Washington [as received]. The statement noted that the five include three U.S. citizens working for American companies and two Egyptians, one of whom works in the procurement office at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington.

The U.S. Justice Department statement says that movement of such material out of the United States without a permit from the pertinent office in the State Department is considered illegal.

The statement, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, explains that transporting this material to Egypt is considered a violation of the U.S. export laws. The statement also says that one of the Egyptians has diplomatic immunity while the other lives outside the United States.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the officials at the Egyptian Embassy are meeting with U.S. authorities to learn the facts and the circumstances surrounding this incident.

The U.S. State Department last night summoned one of the officials at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington in order to provide some clarification regarding this matter.

THE WASHINGTON POST said in its report that U.S. officials have no clear idea about Egypt's missile program. Nevertheless, the paper said that Egypt is cooperating with Argentina and Iraq in building a missile with a range of 500 miles. The paper also said that Egyptian officers are assisting Iraq in its efforts to modify Soviet missiles.

THE WASHINGTON POST concluded by saying that the arrest of these people comes at a time when the U.S. Administration is increasingly concerned about the missile race in the Middle East and has been trying to check it.

'Abd al-Majid Declines Comment

JN2506124988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today declined to comment on the U.S. accusation that two Egyptian officers attempted to smuggle sophisticated technological equipment. Answering questions from journalists who were waiting for him at the gate of the Presidential Palace at the end of the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and the Japanese foreign minister, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: No comment.

U.S. Ambassador Comments

NC2506140588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, has stated that strong ties link Egypt and the United States.

He added that the accusation pertaining to the export of forbidden material outside the United States is an issue that can be surmounted.

The U.S. ambassador made the statement today in response to a question on the issue.

Intent To 'Damage' Relations

NC2606062988 Cairo MENA in English 0616 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper said today that upon reading the statement reported by THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday on the arrest of four persons while attempting to ship a container including carbon fibers, a light heat-resistant material, aboard an Egyptian aircraft, it becomes clear that it was meant to damage Egyptian-U.S. relations.

AL-AHRAM added that the details of the story as contained in the statement of the Justice Department are not clear and have yet to be materialized.

"We all know that the U.S. market is open for the purchase and exportation of all strategic commodities, and it might be far from the knowledge of some people that they must get a license in advance for the export so long as the commodities could be circulated and purchased from markets" AL-AHRAM went on to say.

"The Egyptian establishments," the paper said, "have never been accustomed to violate rules or to undertake espionage activities or to steal confidential U.S. military documents from the Pentagon or from elsewhere."

Adding, AL-AHRAM said the contents of the Justice Department statement indicating that an Egyptian cargo plane had arrived in the United States to transport these materials are far from the truth for a simple reason: Many Egyptian aircraft arrive in the United States for shipping some military equipment Egypt has been getting from the United States.

Minister 'Ubayd Reportedly To Form New Government

NC2606132588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD reports today that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will entrust Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, with the formation of a new government to replace the government of 'Atif Sidqi. The paper points out that the new government will be formed after 13 September, following the elections for local councils.

Charge d'Affaires 'Recalled' From Algiers

NC2506174388 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, June 25 (AFP)—The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Algiers, Husayn Ahmed Amin, has been recalled for consultations following a war of words through the press which has temporarily clouded hopes of diplomatic normalisation, a diplomatic source said Saturday.

Mr. Amin was expected to be away about a week.

His departure, Thursday, followed bitter exchanges triggered by a complaint over Egypt's treatment at the Algiers Arab summit of June 7 which was formulated by the Egyptian Government daily AL-AKHBAR on June 10.

The paper found it "strange" that the Egyptian envoy had not been invited to the opening session along with other members of the diplomatic corps including the Iranian ambassador. AL-AKHBAR said the Algerian snub "reflected an unfriendly attitude, not just towards Egypt but also towards the Arab cause".

The Algerian Arabic-language daily AL-SHA'B retaliated on June 19 accusing Cairo of "being undignified" and asking if Egypt would break ties with Israel "to preserve its dignity".

"The leader (of the Arab world) can not be at the same time leader and traitor to the cause of its people," AL-SHA'B said.

The tiff appears to have halted at least momentarily a steady improvement in bilateral relations.

By the end of May, diplomats were predicting an early reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Algeria with only a few protocol and technical obstacles remaining to be overcome.

But an expected meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the African summit in Addis Ababa failed to take place while a visit by the Egyptian foreign minister to Algiers was apparently shelved.

Algeria is one of four countries which did not restore diplomatic links with Egypt after the last Arab summit in Amman. The others were Syria, Libya and Lebanon.

Most Israeli Tourists Allegedly Work for Mosad

JN2506081688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jun (WAKH)—A senior Egyptian official has warned that the majority of the thousands of Israeli tourists who visit Egypt work for the Israeli Mosad organization. In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD published today, Taha al-Farnawani, former head of the Palestine Directorate at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, said that the state of war between the Arabs and Israel still exists.

Ambassador al-Farnawani said that the Palestinian uprising is the greatest event in contemporary Arab and Islamic history. He expressed his conviction that its continuation will impose peace in the region.

Al-Farnawani, who was moved from his post to the Directorate of Immigration Affairs in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, announced that he intends to form a new Arab front to support and champion the Palestinian cause. The objective of this front, he added, will be to strengthen the civilized conflict of the present and coming Arab generations. The front will call for peace, not capitulation. It will not interfere in the internal affairs of any country and its objective will be Palestine first and last.

Libya

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 25 Jun

LD2506195588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Tripoli this evening.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to JANA in which he hailed the results of the emergency Arab summit held in Algeria. Brother Yasir 'Arafat saluted the enormous efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution for the success of this summit and for the implementation of its resolutions on the support for and escalation of the mass popular uprising led by the generation of anger inside occupied Palestine. Brother 'Arafat also praised the efforts of the brother leader aimed at ending the fighting between brothers in the Palestinian camps.

Camps Cease-Fire Arranged

LD2606150088 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1408 GMT 26 Jun 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, June 26 (TANJUG)—It seems that Al-Qadhdhafi's initiative for a cease-fire between the warring Palestinian factions at Beirut's Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah refugee camps will be successful.

Palestinian sources in Tripoli said that the two sides, through Al-Qadhdhafi's personal mediation, have in principle agreed to halt the fighting.

A Libyan delegation will be sent to the camps to supervise the implementation of the agreement under which, it is said, positions which 'Arafat's forces took from Syrian-backed Abu Musa's followers in fighting from March until today, will be returned.

Over 80 people have been killed in clashes until now between 'Arafat's and Abu Musa's fighters over the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps, and the almost entire population of Shatila had to flee before fires and destruction.

Both 'Arafat and Abu Musa are currently in Libya. 'Arafat last night arrived in the Jamahiriyah, where directly before his arrival and with Al-Qadhdhafi's mediation, a ceasefire agreement was reached and will today be signed by 'Arafat in the presence of Al-Qadhdhafi.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD2606070988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

'Rebel Forces' Defeated in Upper Nile Area

JN2406110488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA)—Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Shul, official spokesman of Anya Nya II, has said the Armed Forces and Anya Nya II forces managed to defeat rebel forces in Bentiu and Mayom in the Upper Nile's western area. He said the outlaws are not present in these areas and were forced to enter Bahr al-Ghazal in a scattered manner.

Shul said that rebel activities had been reduced to looting and theft after the rebels failed to confront the Armed Forces and the Anya Nya II forces. Shul asserted that the situation is calm in all operational areas in the south. He explained that combing operations are under way in the area of Al-Nasir, Akobi, Fangak, and Wat [name as received].

Minister Cited on Garang's Kenya Office

JN2406112088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA)—Sudan will react similarly if the Kenyan government refuses to respond to Sudan's request for an immediate closure to the Sudanese rebels office in Nairobi, Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah M. Ahmad vowed yesterday.

Ahmad who is also the government's official spokesman asserted that Sudan would not renounce its demand especially after being assured through documents and undisputed proves that the rebels' office was operating in fields that had nothing to do with the relief purpose as claimed by the Kenyan Government.

On the other hand, the spokesman voiced the government welcome to any endeavour to be exerted by any unofficial quarter for prevailing peace in the south.

Defense Ministry Denies Saudi Plane Report

JN2606104488 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum June 26 (SUNA)—The Defence Ministry yesterday denied allegations recently published by a local daily here regarding aircraft donated by Saudi Arabia to the Sudanese Armed Forces.

A statement issued by the Ministry yesterday said: What is given by the Saudi Kingdom to the Sudanese Armed Forces is considered as the most advanced military equipment contrary to what had been alleged by the paper.

The statement described the allegations as untrue and baseless information that could harm the distinguished relations between Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Tunisia

Information Minister on Libyan Relations

LD2406190988 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Interview with Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah by Farida Ayari; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ayari] Within the new framework of Maghreb relations, Tunisian-Libyan relations are stirring up the greatest interest. President Ben Ali was to pay an official visit to Libya from 12 to 14 June, but it was postponed. The Libyans, who had made all the preparations to welcome the head of state, were not particularly happy about this. I could see that myself. Can you tell us what went wrong?

[Abdallah] I do not know of anything going wrong. I know that President Ben Ali was indisposed due to overwork. He felt tired after intensive activities. He has not had a single day of rest since coming to power on 7 November, under circumstances of which you are fully aware. These circumstances required him to make a very considerable effort because he faced many very important problems. He had to meet too many deadlines. Moreover, he participated in the Addis Ababa summit and the two Algiers summits. This postponement is solely due to fatigue. With regard to Tunisian-Libyan relations, I can only tell you that they are on the ascendant.

[Ayari] I will continue on the subject of Tunisian-Libyan relations: It seems that the two sides have not yet agreed on two points. First, the socially contentious matter of liabilities after Libya expelled 30,000 Tunisian workers in 1985 and second, the exploitation of the continental shelf. Can you enlighten us on these two issues which seem to be pending still?

[Abdallah] I think that the agreement or agreements between Tunisia and Libya are extremely numerous and cover widely varying fields. Some issues are difficult ones, more difficult than others, and it is normal that it should take somewhat longer to settle them. They are important issues: the exchange of workers, that is the so-called social issue; there is the issue of joint exploitation of the continental shelf oil resources. There is an agreement in principle which was announced at the Jerba meeting between President Ben Ali and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. A number of ways and means, important ones, remain to be settled. Time is needed for those, perhaps even more thought on the subject is needed. What I can tell you is that, as far as I know, President Ben Ali's visit to Libya will indeed take place. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Iraq

JN2306183788 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, June 23, INA—Iraq and Tunisia today signed here three agreements for cooperation in fields of trade, industry, economy and tourism.

The agreements culminated meetings of the Iraqi-Tunisian joint committee with the signing ceremony attended by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraqi first deputy premier and Tunisian prime minister Hedi Baccouche.

The agreement for technical, industrial, economic and trade exchange provide for increasing volume of trade exchange to an annual 50 million dollars for each country, rendering facilities for import of commodities, exchange of know how in fields of industry and agriculture and raw materials necessary for industry, and cooperating in the production of semi-manufactured materials.

The third agreement provided for encouraging tourism between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ramadan said the agreements are a big stride along the path of promoting stable cooperation between the two countries adding that Iraqi-Tunisian cooperation are exemplary as they are based on mutual respect and confidence.

The Tunisian prime minister said the agreement would further activate the developing relations between the two countries.

Kuwait

Murphy Arrives for Official Visit 26 Jun

LD2706090988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0801 GMT 27 Jun 88

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, June 27 (KUNA)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South East Asia Affairs Richard Murphy arrived here late last night on a two-day official visit to Kuwait that comes within the framework of his tour to the Middle East.

Upon his arrival here Murphy told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY (KUNA) that he is looking forward to meet H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and senior Kuwaiti officials.

He said that he will discuss with them two major issues: The Iraq-Iran war, efforts to end it within the framework of the UN Security Council and the current developments in the Gulf region.

The other major topic is the Middle East cause, he said.

He declined to answer any further question and said that a press conference will be held prior to his departure Tuesday.

Murphy is scheduled today to meet with H.H. the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah in addition to deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, state minister for foreign affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi and Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Shaykh Sabah will hold a reception this evening in honor of the visiting American official and Al-'Usaymi will hold tonight a dinner banquet for Murphy.

On Tuesday Murphy will meet with State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi.

The American diplomat was received at the airport by deputy undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry Faysal al-Mutawa, the American ambassador to Kuwait and an official of the Protocol Department.

Murphy's Middle Eastern tour covered Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Iraq. He will also visit Bahrain after his current trip to Kuwait.

Brings Bush Letter

LD2706104388 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1021 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 27 June, KUNA—The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has received a written message from U.S. Vice President George Bush.

Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern South Asian Affairs, conveyed the message to Shaykh Sa'd when he was received by the latter this morning. Nothing has been disclosed about the content or issues included in the message.

The audience was attended by Faysal Salih al-Mutawwa', the acting under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson N. Howell.

Finance Minister Outlines 1988-89 Budget

LD2606150888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1355 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi Sunday said that the 1988-89 financial year revenues totalled 2,054 million Kuwaiti dinars and expenditures hit KD 3,194 million, resulting in a deficit of KD 1,3465 (KD 1 equals 3.6 U.S. dollar).

In a statement following the Cabinet weekly meeting to discuss the state's budget, Al-Kharafi said that the deficit will be covered from the state's reserves, while nearly KD 205 million of the total revenues were designated to reserves of future generations.

He noted that the government aims at, through the 1988-89 budget, covering the expenses of new jobs by appointing Kuwaiti nationals and meet the vital needs such as education, housing and health services.

Moving on, the minister estimated oil revenues for the 88-89 fiscal years at KD 1,788 billion, a slight increase over last year, while non-oil revenues topped 265 million dinars, a 12-million hike over last year's budget.

He added that despite gruelling efforts to reduce expenditure, salaries for this year's budget hovered around 900 million dinars, topping last year's figures by nearly 48 million dinars.

This was for the first part of expenditures. The second part which includes commodities and services, however, witnessed a 2-million-dinar drop from last year's amount of 266 million.

The third part of expenditures, which encompasses transporation means and equipments, hit 26.5 million this year, two million more than the previous year which

went to upgrading the Interior Ministry's communications network and furnishing computers and emergency generators to some institutions.

The minister noted that estimates of the fourth part of expenditures which embraces construction projects and public appropriations caputed 757 million dinars of this year's budget, a slight hike of seven million dinars over last year.

The fifth and final part of expenditures which includes various expenses and payments captured the lion's share of this year's budget with 1.216 billion dinars, 18 millions less that the previous year.

He concluded that the 1988-89 budget totalled 3,194 billion dinars, 36.8 more than the 1987-88 financial year.

Cabinet Discusses Gulf War, Canada Summit

LD2606152988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1229 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait Sunday expressed satisfaction over Iraq's liberation of Majnun Islands, hoping that Iran would respond to the repeated peace calls and end this tragic war between the two Muslim neighbors to restore stability and security to the region.

In its weekly meeting, the Kuwaiti cabinet chaired by H.H. the crown prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, minister of state for cabinet affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rahid said that the Council reviewed the outcome of the industrial summit held recently in Canada and welcomed its stances toward the Palestinian problem and tending the Iraq-Iran war, through the implementation of Resolution 598.

While the Cabinet hails this positive gesture, it called on these countries to translate words into actions, in an effort to establish peace and stability worldwide.

In other developments, the cabinet got acquainted with the message received by H.H. the amir from Sudanese deputy chairman of the State Council Idris al-Bana on bilateral relations.

Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi briefed the Council on the visit by Sudanese Minister of Mining and Energy Bakri Ahmed Adeel and the talks he held with the guest minister.

Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad also briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the third meeting of GCC information ministers which was held last week in Riyadh.

After that, the Council of Ministers listened to a report by Industry and Trade Minister Faysal al-Khalid on the results of his tour which included Switzerland, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Bulgaria, during which he took part at the international economic forum which was held in Geneva to strengthen ties between the GCC and the EC.

H.H. the crown prince and premier also examined the outcome of the last meeting of the civil service commission on implementing resolutions related to plans and programs of administrative reform and the cabinet listened to an explanation from Minister al-Rashid on obstacles obstructing the implementation of these programs.

The Council also authorised the 1988-89 state budget and the draft law on increasing defense expenditures, in order to refer them to the amiri diwan and agreed that Kuwait hosts the fifth session of Islamic Fiqh (Jurisprudence) convention Dec 17-22 and decided to earmark 120,000 dinars for this purpose.

The cabinet got acquainted with decisions of the 11th meeting of the Supreme Council for planning on the five-year development plan and the state budget, and discussed a report by the supreme committee responsible for evaluating the education system in Kuwait which gave the committee's perspective on examining problems facing education and means to remedy them.

Foreign Minister 'Pleased' with Iraqi Successes

LD2506140388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1218 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 25 (KUNA)—Kuwait Saturday expressed pleasure over Iraq's liberation of the Majnun Islands from Iranian occupation forces.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, answering reporters' questions on the Iraqi accomplishment, said: "We are pleased with the news today of the liberation of Al-Faw and Shalamcheh."

"The new victory of our brothers in Iraq would facilitate and quicken efforts to end this destructive war," Shaykh Sabah added.

He called on Iranian officials anew to respond to reason and wisdom, admit facts and end this tragic war.

Dailies Note Victories

LD2606104188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily said here Sunday that in the face of Iranian insistance to continue the war, an Iraqi military decisiveness is the only alternative to end the neary eight-year-old conflict.

The Arabic-language AL-WATAN, in a front-page editorial, said that "We look at every Iraqi victory from the viewpoint that it is the beginning of the end of this destructive and crazy war."

"The decisive Iraqi victories put Iranian leaders, whoever they are, before a sun-like fact that they only have two alternatives: peace or defeat and no third way except more killings of Iranian lives," the paper stressed.

The paper was commenting on yesterday's 10-hour long Iraqi offensive on the oil-rich islands of Majnun, occupied by Iran in 1984.

The Iraqi National Guards and the Third Battalion of the Iraqi Army destroyed bridges linking the islands with Iran, stroke [as received] Iranian lines, bombed and skillfully diminished the presence of the Iranians in those islands. A large number of Iranians were taken into captivity as well.

"And here comes the liberation of Majnun Islands to add another new chapter to the chapters of the heroic Iraqi people in this bloody fight," the paper commented.

In another press comment, daily AL-SIYASAH said "the leadership of Saddam Husayn has succeeded in reorganizing the Iraqi life and consequently qualified it to master practice the game war." [sentence as received]

"Iraq has cleansed its territories, and if the superpowers could not shoulder their responsibilities in maintaining security and order in the world, Iraq has done their job for them," AL-SIYASAH emphasized.

The liberation of the Majnun Islands was part of a wider Iraqi plan to liberate other formerly Iranian-held Iraqi territories. The drive was launched in April when Iraqi troops freed the Al- Faw Peninsula, occupied since February 1986.

Then, the Iraqi army drove the Iranians out of Shalamcheh area on the borders with Iran, and only a few days ago heights in the northern of the country were retaken from the Iranian invaders.

4-Year Oil Agreement Signed with Sudan

LD2406193488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1521 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 24 (KUNA)—Sudan's Energy and Mines Minister Bakri Ahmad 'Adil Friday left here concluding a five-day visit to Kuwait.

During his stay, a four-year agreement between Kuwait and Sudan was signed, according to which the latter will be provided with 50,000 tons of Kuwaiti-oil products monthly.

While in Kuwait, the Sudanese minister conferred with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi on oil matters.

He was also received by his highness the amir and his highness the crown prince and premier.

PDRY

Al-'Attas on Attempts to Block Oil Exploitation

EA2306224388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has stressed that during the latest stages of the development plan, marked progress occurred in the development of agriculture and (?fisheries) and in social services. The extraction and financing industry expanded, and exploration of oil and preparation for its exploitation and of other natural resources have begun. This was said in a press interview conducted by "AL-UFUQ" magazine, published in Cyprus, in its latest issue.

Brother Haydar al-'Attas pointed out that the discovery of oil in the two parts of the Yemeni homeland has disturbed the enemies of the Yemeni people who do not wish them to emerge from the circle of backwardness and subjection. Accordingly, they are making every effort to place spurious obstacles in the way of the natural exploitation of this Yemeni resource.

He described the present relationship with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland as good. He said: We have a common conviction that the settlement of any differences about oil and other areas must be based on consideration for the supreme interests of the Yemeni people and what will serve their stability, progress, and prosperity, far removed from the dangers of tension and (?division), to the logic and method of peaceful democratic dialogue.

This was stressed by the recent summit meetings in Taiz and Saana between brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 'Ali Abdallah Salih, which we rightly regard as a big gain for our people and a victory for their will. According to my judgment, these agreements open wide horizons for joint unionist work.

Brother Haydar al-'Attas affirmed Democratic Yemen's material and moral support for the uprising of the Palestinian people. He also affirmed support for the holding of an international conference on the Middle East. He said the development of events inside and outside occupied Palestine confirm the need for a conference to be held.

Al-Bid Addresses Shabwah Rally 24 Jun

EA2406201388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, witnessed this morning a great popular rally in the capital of Bayhan district in Shabwah governorate. The brother secretary general addressed the rally. He began his speech by conveying greetings of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau,

the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and the Council of Ministers to the masses of the district. He congratulated them on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the 22 June corrective step. [passage omitted]

He said our party and people had been able to overcome the effects of the abortive 13 January conspiracy, thanks to the masses, the military, and the security institutions that confronted the conspiracy. He stressed that our country's experience had proved the strength and solidarity of our people against all forms of hostile conspiracy. He stressed the importance of reflecting on and turning to good account the faults and shortcomings accompanying our actions. He emphasized the importance of adhering to internal regulations, the party's program and constitution, and the laws and resolutions enacted by the legal party and governmental organs.

He said: We have a party of a new pattern that has opened up its difficult path through the masses' determination and their support for it. It will continue on the path of socialist orientation for the (?happiness) of the toilers, the poor, and all the masses of people and to get rid of the difficulties of the past. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary general referred to the unification efforts of the leaderships of the two parts to achieve the noble goal of our Yemeni people represented in Yemeni unity. He referred to the unification steps taken at the Saana and Taiz meetings for the free movement of citizens between the two parts, and the establishment of the joint Yemeni oil exploration project which aims to [words indistinct] for the Yemeni people in both parts. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Richard Murphy Arrives in Doha 25 Jun

JN2506074888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Doha, 25 Jun (WAKH)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, arrived in Doha this morning on a visit to Qatar. Murphy was received by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry. The U.S. official, who is touring the region, is expected to hold talks with Qatari officials on issues of common interest.

Meets Heir Apparent, Departs

JN2606200788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Doha, 25 Jun (WAKH)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Doha this evening after a short visit to the State of Qatar. During this visit, the U.S. official met with Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani for talks on a number of Gulf and Arab issues of common interest as well as bilateral relations.

United Arab Emirates

Imports Fall 'Sharply' During 1980-86

JN2606190688 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Jun 88 p 2

[By 'Ali Lacin]

[Text] UAE imports dropped sharply during the period from 1980-86 falling from 32.4248 billion dirhams to 23.5751 billion dirhams, a drop of 27.3 percent.

According to a statistical report by the Central Bank, Abu Dhabi's imports during that period fell from 10.4713 billion dirhams to 5.5779 billion dirhams, a drop of 46.7 percent.

Dubai's imports fell from 19.3863 billion dirhams to 15.4783 billion dirhams, a drop of 20 percent.

Sharjah's imports fell very slightly during the same period: from 2.5671 billion dirhams to 2.5189 billion dirhams, a drop of 1.8 percent.

According to the report, Abu Dhabi's share of total UAE imports fell from 32.3 percent in 1980 to 23.6 percent in 1986, while Dubai's share of UAE imports rose from 59.8 percent to 65.7 percent and Sharjah's share rose from 7.9 percent to 10.7 percent during the same period.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai had equal shares of the UAE's transit trade, with each amirate's share standing at 28.6 percent, while Sharjah's share stood at 32.8 percent of UAE transit trade.

With regard to exports and the reexporting of non-petroleum goods from the UAE in 1986, 17.9 percent were imported by Saudi Arabia, 12.7 percent were imported by Iran, 9.2 percent were imported by the United States, 8.4 percent were imported by Qatar, 5.4 percent were imported by Kuwait, 3.8 percent were imported by Japan, 3.4 percent were imported by Bahrain, 1 percent were imported by Iraq, and 38.2 percent were imported by other countries.

Saddam Husayn Cited on Recent Victories

JN2606075788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that the value of any Iraqi victory does not lie in the recapture of usurped land, although the people cherish this land, but in that it is part of the new course of attempts by Iraqis to know themselves, build themselves, and exercise a humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab role.

Addressing the fighters of the III Army Corps in the sector east of Al-Basrah, his excellency stressed that the value of the victory that was scored today with the complete liberation of the Majnun Islands lies in the noble meanings that were transmitted by the forefathers, and not only in terms of technical and military value, although the technical and military value in itself is important in terms of planning and implementation, and in terms of the courage and determination of the men it implies.

In another address during his meeting with the staff commanders and officers of the Presidential Guard forces, President Saddam Husayn said that faith and high morale have become a prominent characteristic in the life of the Iraqi individual and fighter.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the sound preparation of the military is a basic element in polishing the image of the military at the required level and on a sound course.

President Saddam Husayn added: When we say that the one who fights is better, that he is more faithful, and that his morale is higher, we must not imagine that morale and faith come from the void, and all at once.

In this respect, President Saddam Husayn said that the faithful can become less faithful if they undertake actions that dampen their faith. This or that person whose faith has not risen to the required level can reach a higher level of faith, thus enhancing his morale, if he carries out broader duties and preparations. In his address, President Saddam Husayn spoke about the high and advanced level attained by the Presidential Guard force in terms of preparedness, performance, and morale. He explained that this stems from a sound exercise of duties and the direct impact this has had on the enhancement of the fighter morale and faith. He said that all this positively affects the lives of the fighters.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that superiority continues to tip in favor of all the Iraqi Armed Forces corps—infantry, mechanized forces, the Air Force, naval forces, and ground forces.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized the importance of maintaining the performance of the Iraqi Armed Forces at the highest level in future battles.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the cooperation between the III Army Corps and the Presidential Guards force in two major battles: The first Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operation for the liberation of Al-Shalamjah [Shalmacheh], and the second Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operation for the liberation of the Majnun Islands has created a new state of superior human interaction within the various ranks and services of the Iraq Army.

After referring to final victory as being soon, the president affirmed that the major and most difficult part of national territory has been secured from the Iranian enemy. Today's battle liberating the Majnun Islands, he explained, was the last of the difficult battles.

He said: You have retrieved the major and most difficult parts of your territory. What remains may need your cooperation with your Army, or you may give the Army the freedom to act in accordance with its own capabilities.

Speaking about UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the refusal of the Iranian rulers to respond to the international will, President Saddam Husayn said: I believe they are now cursing their luck for not agreeing to Resolution 598. We told them right from the start—and we were indeed sincere—not to push matters to this level. But they deserve what they got. We praise God in all circumstances. But, we would have been more grateful had they accepted Resolution 598. The war would have been over and everyone would have remained in his own territory. But, we also thank God that they did not heed our advice. Why? Not because we want war.

As far as we are concerned, we wish peace had come long before today so no Iraqi would have been harmed. But, viewing their rejection of Resolution 598 in light of the historic development of events, and considering relations between Iraq and Iran on the one hand and the Arab nation and Iran on the other, for many centuries to come, we thank God also that they did not accept the UN resolution and so met their bad luck, as the popular saying goes, and also were disgraced before their own people for their wrong, twisted, and biased calculations.

The president continued: Thank God, our people have risen to a higher level. They have been at a high level, but they have now risen to a new higher level because they have retrieved the major part of their territory, without it being said that Iraq could not retrieve its own territory or that it would not have retrieved its territory had it not been for a political settlement and Iran's acceptance of Resoltuion 598.

The president said: I think now—and in fact even before now after the liberation of Al-Faw—had Iran agreed at any time simply and without conditions [bikhtisar wa bidun mutasammiyat] to remain in its own territory and for us to remain in our own territory, not to attack Iraq and the Arabs, to live secure in its own country, and to respect itself by not encroaching on other people's rights,

we would be happy. We also would be in our country and within our own territory and rights. We do not have ambitions on anyone's territory and rights.

God be praised, they had no luck. It seems God Almighty did not want to give them an opportunity.

God bless you, brothers.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,228

JN2406171588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,228 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities carried out by our victorious Armed Forces last night and today were as follows:

1. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships flew 151 combat sorties today, inflicting further losses on the enemy in personnel, gun emplacements, and equipment. Having carried out this number of sorties, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, God be praised.

2. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted an enemy helicopter gunship while it was landing inside enemy territory. The heroic men of our artillery immediately directed their concentrated fire on it and managed to destroy and burn it at 1230 [0830 GMT] yesterday.

Elsewhere in the same sector, two scoundrels were killed and one 106-mm gun, one observation post, and two vehicles were destroyed.

3. One shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed, one 106-mm gun was destroyed and its crewmen killed, and one vehicle was burned and destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Six enemy personnel were killed, three infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector. Moreover, one enemy vehicle was burned and destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One enemy gun emplacement and one observation post were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Furthermore, two scoundrels were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 June 1988

Communique No 3,229

JN2506052388 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0456 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,229 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O men of our valiant Armed Forces, O sons of our glorious Arab Nation: Pursuant to the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah [On God We Relied] operations to liberate our chaste land from the filth of the invaders who covet our territory and that of the Arab, we relied on God once again at 0345 today [2345 GMT on 24 June]. Our direction this time was our dear lands in the Majnun Islands, its environs, and all that affects directly or indirectly the main area of operations of the enemy forces wherever they are positioned.

God, as always, grants us victory. The objectives of the first phase of our forces in all directions of the offensive were achieved. The enemy resistance collapsed under the hammer and spitfires of the Iraqis.

We are awaiting more pleaseant news which we will convey to you on the glorious battles in the phases of this offensive. We are very optimistic that we will have final success, with God's help. God is great. Shame on the ignominious.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 June 1988

Communique No 3,230

JN2506103888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,230 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O glorious men of all the Armed Forces and of the Al-Sawlah Forces in particular, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: In our Communique No 3,229 this morning, we said that pursuant to the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah, we relied on God once again and our main objective was to liberate our national territory in the northern and southern Majnun Islands in the marshes of Hawr al-Hawizah.

At 0345 today [2345 GMT on 24 June] gallant men, who believe in their God, the homeland, all noble values, and national and pan-Arab honor, advanced together and with the homeland and the people before their eyes shouting "God is great and dignity for the Arabs; God is great and dignity for Iraq; God is great and peace to those who respect it and seek it." These are the men of the difficult missions, the men of the Presidential Guard and the men of the heroic III Army who have their own objectives and directions. They all want to achieve the objectives which will reinforce Iraq's glory and pride and

Arab security. These objectives will also place the enemies in a deteriorating position and bring them closer and closer to their final abyss, with God's help.

Thus the heroes of the Presidential Guards advanced purging all of our occupied territory in southern Majnun and northern Majnun. Meanwhile, the heroic men of the III Army Corps advanced crushing enemy troop concentrations, defenses, artillery concentrations, and headquarters on the Iranian ground opposite the two islands of southern and northern Majnun. They destroyed enemy forces, increased their confusion, protected the eastern flank of the Presidential Guards' advance, and cut off the barrier linking the Majnun Islands with Iranian territory on their side to deprive the enemy—as an additional measure—of the means of reinforcing his units in Majnun in that direction.

Between 0345 today, 25 June 1988, and 1200 today, glorious battles took place in which God granted victory to your sons and brothers, and the criminal aggressors were vanquished after their faces were trampled in the mud of defeat. A great number of the aggressors were captured and large quantities of weapons and materiel were seized.

Praise be to God for His clear victory. Thank God for everything and at every time.

Thus, the Presidential Guards force and the III Army Corps have achieved all their preplanned objectives in accordance with the liberation plan. Our land has returned to us liberated, purged, and returned to its owners by the sons of Iraq with the guns of victory.

Glory to the martyrs, the mast of the flag of Iraq, and the symbol of its strength and glory.

Glory to the men of our Armed Forces in the ground forces, Air Force, the Army Airborne division, and the Navy, all their units and formations, and foremost among them the men of the Al-Sawlah forces in the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thaniyatan operations.

Greetings to the men in captivity who are resisting the methods of charlatanism and tyranny practised against them by the tyrants, as they keep their pledge.

Glory to the Arab nation. Glory to Iraq. God is great. Shame to the ignominious.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 June 1988.

Communique No 3,231

JN2506170188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,231 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of the activities of our units last night and today:

1. Since this morning, the planes of our heroic Air Force have continued to give splendid support for our victorious units as they liberated our dear lands from the dirt of the Zionist Khomeyniites. Our planes flew 247 combat missions, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in addition to achieving the following:

a. At different times today, our planes raided four enemy field headquarters and managed to destroy them.

b. At 0617 [0217 GMT] and 1143 today, our planes launched two raids on two surface-to-air Hawk missile batteries, completely destroying them.

c. At 1145 today, our planes dealt direct blows to their targets in the Hamid camp, setting fire to it.

d. To silence the voices of falsehood, our Air Force launched two successful raids on a television station in Taheri, scoring direct hits on it.

e. At 1622 today, our brave hawks dealt a destructive blow to the Keshvar bridge used by the enemy for military purposes.

After carrying out these duties, our planes returned safely to their bases, in God's care.

2. Through persistent effort and accurate performance by our brave helicopter gunships of the Army's Air Force, 266 combat missions were carried out. During these missions, our knights killed many enemy troops and destroyed many enemy vehicles, armored vehicles, and weapons. Then they returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. One enemy drone was shot down, and two vehicles carrying personnel and one vehicle-mounted 106-mm gun were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. By means of a brave operation in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar forces—four enemy personnel were captured, two others were killed, and one vehicle was seized. In the II Army Corps central sector, three scoundrels were killed, one heavy machinegun was destroyed, and its operators were killed.

Long live the engineer of our victories, the commander of our forces, and the love of our people, Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn. God preserve him. Glory to great Iraq and its brave Armed Forces and to the glorious Arab nation.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 June 1988

Troops Withdraw From Iran

JN2606110988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1042 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Statement issued by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 26 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces today completed their withdrawal from the Iranian territories, the occupation of which was one of the objectives of the third phase of the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thaniyatan" operations.

The number of enemy POW's captured in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thaniyatan" operations has reached 2,115, including 27 officers, up to the time this statement was prepared. Besides, our forces managed to seize large quantities of equipment, weapons, and supplies which were left by the enemy who fled the scene. We will provide information about these items after they are inventoried by the competent agencies. God is great and glory to great Iraq and also to its valiant Armed Forces.

[dated] 26 June 1988

Communique No 3,232

JN2606122788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses 1120 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,232 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the guidance and help of God the Almighty and acting on the wise instructions issued by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, our people's leader on the road to pride and dignity, our valiant formations in the heroic VI Army Corps, under the command of Staff Major General Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil, and within the framework of the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thaniyatan" operations, launched a resolute offensive to liberate our national soil and purge it of the enemy's filth; namely, the ('Ujayridah) area, the Abu Dhikr triangle, the Al-Turabah region, and the Al-Baydah triangle.

These areas are sand promontories established by the enemy opposite our territory in Hawr al-Hawizah inside our international borders. Thus, we have ended the presence of the criminal enemy in the Hawr al-Hawizah waters within our international borders. Our valiant Armed Forces managed to completely end, once and for all, the last enemy presence within our international borders in these waters.

As has been the custom of our proud men in the VI Army Corps, their offensive against the enemy positions embodied the Iraqi's courage and valor, his adherence to his rights and principles, and his vindication of his honor, land, as well as the dignity of his homeland. In their daring attacks against the enemy positions, our heroic combatants managed to kill and wound large numbers of enemy personnel and capture another number of them. They also managed to destroy enemy equipment and weapons and also to seize serviceable equipment and weapons.

Pride and glory to great Iraq which moves diligently from one victory to another under the banner of its beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. The Arab nation has the right to take pride in the accomplishments scored by its men, the courageous Iraqis. The glad tidings which follow each other gladden and please the hearts of all those who have faith in freedom and peace. Pride and dignity belong to you, O you heroic combatants of the VI Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks.

O God, you have granted us this victory. We beseech you to grant us further victories, as You are the best to grant victories.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 June 1988

Plane Downing Denied

JN2606130188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi fighter plane was downed on the southern front on the morning of 25 June.

The spokesman said: All our aircraft that carried out their missions yesterday returned safely to base.

Communique No 3,233

JN2606164488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,233 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of the activities of our units last night and today were as follows:

1. Our brave helicopter gunships flew 161 combat missions today, inflicting important losses on the Khomeyniites. Then our helicopters returned safely to base. God be praised.

2. With God's help, the men of our ground defenses shot down an enemy helicopter gunship in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah at 1000 [0600 GMT] yesterday.

3. Brave forces from our formations in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar forces—launched violent raids on enemy positions and units in the Mehran basin yesterday morning. Through high capability and good performance, these forces removed all kinds of resistance on their way; achieved all their goals; killed or wounded more than 300; and destroyed or seized vehicles, equipment, and weapons, some of them serviceable. After carrying out their missions, these forces returned safely to their bases. God bless the proud men in our heroic Special I Army Corps. We thank God for granting us victory.

4. Through intensive artillery and mortar fire, 13 scoundrels were killed, 1 tubular launcher was destroyed, and 8 various enemy vehicles were burned.

5. A brave force from one of our formations in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite them. After destroying these positions and killing or wounding their occupants, the force returned safely to its base. Elsewhere in the sector, three enemy personnel were killed.

6. Four scoundrels were killed; one shovel [preceding word in English] and two machinegun emplacements were destroyed; and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 June 1988

Spokesman Denies Use of Chemical Weapons

JN2606155488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1509 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—An authorized Iraqi source has stressed that Iranian allegations that Iraq used chemical weapons in the marshland area are false and fabricated lies. In a statement to INA, the source said that the Iranian authorities resort to lies whenever they sustain a military defeat in the aggressive war they are launching against Iraq, as they did in their defeat at Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], and in the mountain areas of Al-Sulaymaniyah, and finally during their defeat in the Majnun area yesterday.

The spokesman recalled that the Iranian officials refused several days ago to receive a UN investigation committee to inquire into previous allegations that Iraq used chemical weapons against Iran. The Iranian refusal came as a result of the absence of evidence supporting these allegations.

The spokesman added that the Iraqi victory in the Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah, Majnun, and northern sector battles is a brilliant reality in the military situation between Iraq and Iran. He also said that the Iranian defeats in these battle cannot be concealed by false allegations and cannot affect the glorious Iraqi victories because such lies will be soon exposed.

Daily Claims Victories Will Speed War End

JN2606131088 Baghdad INA in English 1125 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said the glorious victories of Iraqi Armed Forces including yesterday liberation of Majnun islands would not only lead to a near end of the war but also to the end of the Iranian regime.

A daily article here today said "Iran has lost the war once and for all" and that it would not be able to withstand any Iraqi offensive and that "any military duel with Iraq would be settled in favour of the capable triumphant Iraq".

The daily added that great victory attained yesterday is an additional big step made by Iraq along the path of peace and a step of confidence in our victory and defeat of the "regime of evil and crime in Tehran".

AL-THAWRAH went on saying that yesterday liberation of southern and northern Majnun Islands once again showed that strategic superiority is settled in favour of the brave Iraqi Armed Forces. It also indicated that the military initiative is in the hands of Iraqis and that Iraq's high capability is ascending despite elapse of eight years on the war.

The daily stressed that the Iraqi Armed Forces embodied firm determination to carry on the march of liberation and comprehensive triumph which started with the epic of liberating Al-Faw last April and in a way incurring on the enemy further moral and military defeats and setbacks, paralysing its capability and destroying its aggressive machine.

Shamir Denies 'Secret Negotiations' With PLO

TA2606073388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Jenni Frazer and Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] A month after the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Israel was still involved in secret talks with the PLO, a SUNDAY TIMES story claims today.

The story says that the secret negotiations, authorized by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, were carried out by a Palestinian doctor with Israeli citizenship, Ahmad Tibi.

Tibi was contacted by the PLO last November to say that they had information on the whereabouts of three Israeli soldiers missing since Israel invaded Lebanon.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir categorically denied the SUNDAY TIMES story last night. A spokesman for Shamir said that the report was "without any foundation whatsoever. There have been no negotiations with the PLO, and if somebody conducted such negotiations he was acting without any authorization." [passage omitted]

PLO Spokesman 'Surprised'

TA2706090788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Yosi Levi and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpts] "The secret contacts conducted with the PLO through Dr Ahmad Tibi, the Palestinian go-between, may resume shortly. Dr Tibi may leave for Tunis or a European country as early as in the coming weeks to meet with 'Arafat or one of his envoys, despite recent reports and the denial by the Prime Minister's Office." This was assessed by Dr Tibi's confidants, who know his character and perseverance.

"The dream of every Palestinian is to be the best man in peace talks between Israel and Palastine," Dr Tibi said yesterday. The goal of the contacts is to receive information on the fate the three IDF soldiers missing since the battle at Al-Sultan Ya'qub during the Lebanese war.

Dr Ahmad Tibi enjoys the confidence of both Israeli Government elements and the PLO leadership, including 'Arafat. "I have respect and appreciation for both Weizman and 'Arafat," Tibi said. Yesterday he refused to confirm or deny the report published in the SUNDAY TIMES the day before yesterday. "I would have been glad had the matter not been made public," the doctor said. [passage omitted]

Dr Tibi was surprised by the denial by the Prime Minister's Office. The prevalent view is that it was Bassam Abu Sharif who leaked the report to the SUNDAY TIMES in order to embarrass Prime Minister Shamir. [passage omitted]

Tibi yesterday said: "Due to the sensitivity of the subject I am not prepared to confirm or deny it." Tibi and 'Arafat have been friends for a long time. "'Arafat is a man of honor. I never thought he was playing games," Tibi said. He got to know Weizman about 4 years ago. Some 9 months ago, when he got married, 'Ezer Weizman came to the wedding.

Menahem Rahat reports: Minister Weizman confirmed yesterday that Tibi indeed spoke with him, but refused to confirm whether the talk concerned the PLO's message on the MIA's. Weizman refused to address himself to the SUNDAY TIMES report.

Ben-Aharon Comments on Missiles, 'Intifada'

TA2506114088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Le'a Zinder, on 24 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Aharon] I have seen no confirmation that indeed that M-9's have been sold. We know only that there have been contacts between Syria and the Chinese on the subject of missiles.

Now, you know the Syrians have missiles of their own from the Russians. They have Scud missiles, and they have developed chemical warfare capability. In other words, there is a source of threat very formidable, leaving aside the question of these specific missiles from China. We are concerned to a very large extent over these developments, both with regard to Syria and with regard to Saudi Arabia.

[Zinder] What are some of the ways in which Israel can respond this new threat?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, I do not want to go into the military dimensions of this problem. It has both military and political-diplomatic dimensions. In the political-diplomatic field, we have been trying, together with the United States, to exercise some kind of influence in order to limit this danger and have those countries that are selling these missiles to refrain from doing so. I cannot say that we have had any kind of success. With regard to the military, we have to invest maximum effort in order to develop the kind of countermeasures that would neutralize these threats.

[Zinder] Have you been in contact with the Chinese on this subject?

[Ben-Aharon] Oh, you know we do not have any kind of formal contacts with the Chinese. We get to the Chinese mostly through the United States, because the United States shows her concern on the regional level just as much. By the way, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze told

Shamir, ironically: We have just concluded an agreement that would limit and remove those medium-range missiles, and here you are, the countries in the Middle East, acquiring them now.

[Zinder] Mr Ben-Aharon, on the subject of the intifada [uprising], United States Ambassador Pickering said this week that both American and Israeli observers agree that the situation in the administered territories will not return to the way it was before the intifada began. What is going to be the Israeli strategy in the territories? How long can we pursue a policy of simply responding to Palestinian force with force?

[Ben-Aharon] I hesitate to prophesy. The first order of business is to quell the violence and the riots.

[Zinder] Are there any signs that this is indeed happening?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we have learned from experience by trial and error, and I think the security services and the military are managing this threat to a much more effective extent than in the past. By saying this, I am not implying that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am not very optimistic. I think that we will have, to varying degrees, some continuation of this over an extended period, but not in the proportions and dimensions that we have witnessed in the beginning of these riots.

Now with regard to Israel's response: Of course, we are more than ready to put an end to this entire problem through negotiations and peace. But for peace, just like dancing, you have to have a partner, and there is no partner that is willing to accept the responsibility and to negotiate with us and shoulder the responsibility for representing the wishes of the Palestinian Arabs, such as King Husayn for example. Since we will never negotiate with the PLO, we have only the alternative of trying to encourage Palestinian leaders here, moderate ones, who will disassociate themselves from the PLO, together with King Husayn. On this we are trying every possible effort.

[Zinder] What do you think the Likud Party is going to do before the elections to persuade, not people abroad, but the Israeli voters that, in fact, the Likud is doing everything possible to pursue peace? Are you, perhaps, thinking of coming up with a new initiative?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, I do not speak for the Likud, I speak for the government, because I am a civil servant. I can say on behalf of the prime minister that he will continue, as he has done in the past, to show that it was the Likud that brought about the one and only peace treaty with an Arab neighbor, and that Camp David offers the best basis for any kind of peace agreement with our neighbors, and that we will stick to Camp David because if we are going to give up on agreements duly and solemnly signed then there will be no credibility to any kind of accommodation or agreement with our other neighbors.

Experts Said Helping Chinese 'Upgrade' Weapons

JN2506123888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-'USBU'I in Arabic 23 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PRC is currently developing a sea missile derived from the Israeli "Gabriel" missile in partnership with the Zionist entity. The PRC is also seeking to use the air electronics systems of the suspended Israeli Lavi aircraft project in a new generation of Chinese aircraft now in the works.

Western military sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Israel's Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently approved the continued development of the third prototype of the Lavi to determine the efficiency of its radar system and how far it meets the needs of the Chinese. According to American sources in the research and intelligence section of the U.S. State Department, Israeli experts are helping the Chinese upgrade the T-59 tank and other armor as well as improving tactical missile, artillery, and aircraft capabilities.

Saudi Arabia To Fund PRC Missiles in Syria

TA2606120388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpts] Saudi Arabia has promised to fund Syria's missile deal with the PRC if it goes into effect.

The surface-to-surface missile in question is the M-9. One of the main obstacles to the deal, which was first reported last week, is said to be the question of funding.

According to several reports which have reached the West, the Syrian president has promised Saudi Arabia the following in return for the funding: If and when Israel attacks the Saudi surface-to-surface missiles, Syria will operate its PRC missiles against Israeli population centers, even if Syria does not have a direct interest in the deployment of the missiles against Israel at that time.

The PRC Foreign Ministry has officially denied the deal. It should be pointed out that the missile's range is reportedly longer than first estimated and reaches 900 km.

The latest developments in the Middle East surface-to-surface missile race is causing deep concern in Israel's defense establishment.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently in the United States, referred to the missiles issue in a closed door briefing to several dozen Jewish leaders. Rabin warned that for the first time since the War of Independence, Israeli population centers are in danger of being attacked, as there is no way to stop the missiles after they have been fired. [passage omitted]

The YAR recently received from the USSR four SS-21 missile launchers. This was reported in the soon to be published Report on the Military Balance in the Middle East issued by the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies. The supply of the missiles to the YAR brings to 10 the number of Arab countries armed with surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.

Japanese Foreign Minister Uno Arrives for Visit

TA2606074188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Sosuke Uno has arrived on a visit to Israel. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the Japanese minister will visit the Yad Vashem Museum [commemorating the holocaust] and meet with President Herzog. Later he will tour East Jerusalem and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp, and meet with Palestinian notables.

This afternoon, Uno will meet with the prime minister and vice prime minister, and tonight he will dine at Mr Peres' residence.

This is the first official visit of a Japanese minister to Israel.

Meets With President Herzog

TA2606113988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Sosuke Uno told President Herzog today that at the Western countries' summit in Toronto, his country was especially encouraged by President Reagan that he would do all he could to promote peace in the Middle East. The Japanese minister said that Japan will no longer limit its efforts to financial aid.

President Herzog suggested that the visitor differentiate between the political and the humanitarian aspects of the Palestinian problem. He therefore suggested that Japan adopt a refugee camp and rehabilitate it, without relating this to political problems. The Japanese minister's answer is not known.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that during his tour of the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp, the visitor said that he is concerned about the Palestinians' condition and is following events concerning them with profound sympathy. It is our immediate duty to improve the standard of living in the refugee camps and to transfer urgently the sum of $0.5 million for welfare, he said.

Our correspondent notes that the IDF carried out an extensive security operation during the minister's visit to the refugee camp. Children from the camp flaunted PLO flags and chanted nationalistic slogans.

Meets With Shamir, Peres

TA2606173988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has just had a 1-hour meeting with Prime Minister Shamir and 2 hours of talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the first visit ever by a senior Japanese Cabinet minister to Israel. He said Japan is interested in playing a more active role in the Middle East peace process. Peres is now giving a festive dinner for the Japanese visitor in Jerusalem. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Foreign Minister Uno that Japan is the only great power that still takes account of the Arab boycott. It is true, Shamir said, that Israeli-Japanese trade has made great strides since my visit to Japan in 1985, but this does not satisfy Israel. Uno made no specific commitment on the boycott but said he would take this and other issues up when he gets back to Tokyo.

Shamir also complained about the wave of anti-Semitic literature sweeping Japan. Uno said he thinks its dimensions have been exaggerated, but he admitted that the American Government had also raised the question when he visited Washington.

Uno's meeting with Foreign Minister Peres went on for 2 hours, longer than expected. It was devoted mainly to the Middle East conflict. Peres did most of the talking and, according to Israeli sources, he was very tough. Why did Japan insist on a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories, Peres asked, when Egypt and Jordan have accepted Resolution 242?

After the meeting, we asked Peres if the Japanese have budged on the political issue or on the question of the boycott.

[Peres] I think that most of the subjects that were raised will be reconsidered by the Japanese. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Comments on Improved Ties

TA2706050288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Japan's Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has linked improved ties with Israel to progress in Middle East peace negotiations, and his policy has come in for sharp criticism from Israeli leaders. More from reporter Gid'on Remez.

[Begin recording] [Remez] Speaking yesterday with Israel's prime minister and foreign minister, Uno made it very clear that any further development of economic ties would depend on progress in the peace process. In the meanwhile, it is not policy of Tokyo's Government to act against the Arab boycott or to encourage large Japanese corporations to go against it.

[Foreign Ministry Director General Takashi Onda] Mr Uno said to Mr Peres that business is a hard world. Businessmen cannot invest by simply being told by the government.

[Remez] The minister himself gave the same message, though in more diplomatic language, in raising a toast to Israel at a state dinner last night: [brief remarks by Uno in Japanese followed by Remez' translation] Only in a peaceful situation will the cooperative relations between our two countries be fully developed.

Both Shamir and Peres were critical of this approach.

[Peres] We believe that you come here with the sincere wish to contribute to the air of peace, though as I have told you in our meeting, we have never suggested that you will postpone your relations with the Arabs because there is a lack of peace; neither should you retard your relations with Israel because we are in search of peace. [end recording]

Meets Palestinian Notables

TA2606134388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Sosuke Uno is about to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the latter's office in Jerusalem. Earlier he met with six notables from the territories. At the end of the meeting one of the participants, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, said that the Japanese minister recognized the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a homeland and that the PLO is their representative. Prior to the meeting the notables from the territories disseminated a manifesto among the journalists. The manifesto asked that Japan increase economic aid to the territories. It also asked that Japan make any further development of economic ties with Israel conditional on progress in the peace process.

Palestinians' Comments Reported

JN2606173588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno this afternoon met at the American Colony Hotel in the eastern part of the capital with six Palestinian figures with whom he discussed the current situation. Details with Ibrahim Shahid.

[Begin Shahid recording] The meeting between the Japanese foreign minister and the six Palestinian figures at the American Colony Hotel lasted 1 and ½ hours. Also present at the meeting were the Japanese ambassador to Israel and a number of his aides. Following the meeting, the Japanese ambassador would not answer reporters questions. I interviewed the Arab participants after the meeting. I began with Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor. [end recording]

[Begin Frayj recording] We received an official invitation for a meeting with the Japanese foreign minister. At the outset of the meeting, he read out a written statement which was translated into English. It recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip should this be the wish of the Palestinian people. The statement also recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative. It came out in support of the international conference with participation by all parties including the PLO. The Japanese foreign minister voiced his deep distress over the tragic events in the occupied land. He was also deeply hurt by the terrible conditions in the Duhayshah camp. I view the meeting with the Japanese foreign minister as one of the most successful meetings over the past year. [end recording]

[Begin Shahid recording] The Mayor of Bethlehem Ilyas Frayj. One of the figures invited to meet with the Japanese foreign minister was attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah of Gaza. [end recording]

[Begin Abu Rahmah recording] We raised the possibility of Japan helping to promote a convening of the international conference. The minister explained the Japanese Government's position supporting Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and No. 338 and self-determination for the Palestinian people. [end recording]

[Begin Shahid recording] Lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah. Also present at the meeting with the Japanese minister was Sai'd Kan'an of Nabulus. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Kan'an] To begin with, he outlined Japan's position on the Mideast issue, noting that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and underlies all the Mideast problems. He pointed out that Japan favors the convening of an international conference with PLO attendance as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on the basis of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He indicated that this was Japan's position at the recent G-7 conference of the seven industrialized nations conference in Toronto.

[Shahid] And what about the economic aspects which was featured in your memorandum on progress in the peace efforts?

[Kan'an] We urged Japan to play a more constructive role in two respects: First on the political front; then we asked Japan's support in terms of pressuring the U.S. Administration to hold a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat against the backdrop of Bassam Abu Sharif's document which all of us supported during the meeting. We have also requested that Japanese aid to the Palestinian people be increased. He promised to study the matter. He informed us that he made an on-the-spot $500,000 donation to Al-Duhayshah camp, UNRWA, and NDP. [end recording]

[Begin Shahid recording] Also invited to the meeting was Dr Sari Nusaybah, who inexplicably did not show up and Hanna Sinyurah, who did not attend due to being overseas. The meeting was also attended by Radwan Abu 'Ayyash Doyen of the journalists in the West Bank. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Abu 'Ayyash] Apparently the Japanese are thinking about playing a larger role in the occupied land on the political and economic fronts.

[Shahid] On what basis, do you think, were the six personalities who met with the Japanese foreign minister chosen?

[Abu 'Ayyash] As a matter of fact, it seems the Japanese Embassy in Tel Aviv made the choice. I do not think there was a certain rationale behind the meeting; it was a matter of a group of Palstinians wishing to talk to the Japanese foreign minister upon an invitation from the Japanese Embassy. [end recording]

[Begin Shahid recording] During the meeting, the Palestinians presented to the Japanese minister a memo about which Ilyas Frayj had this to say: [end recording]

[Begin Frayj recording] We asked that Japan pay more attention to rejuvenating the peace process. We emphasized our sincere desire to see just peace between the Arabs and Jews so the two peoples coexist as good neighbors enjoying equal rights. We found the minister to be completely understanding. [end recording]

[Begin Shahid recording] The Japanese minister at noon today visited Al-Duhayshah camp where he met with a deputation in the presence of the UNRWA director general, in the West Bank. [end recording] [Passage omitted]

Ambassador Comments on Mideast

TA2506200088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Interview in English with Koichi Tsutsumi, Japan's ambassador in Israel, by Roni Savir; date and place not given—videotaped]

[Text] [Tsutsumi] A lot of us, we would like to find out what sort of a role we can play in promoting the peace process. Also, we support the spirit of the Shultz initiative. We have some differences of view with the Americans.

[Savir] Like what?

[Tsutsumi] For instance, we support the participation of the PLO in the international conference. When we say the right of the self-determination of the Palestinian people we include the right for establishing independent state, both of which the United States does not support. But the main motive is to promote the peace process. So, in spite of the differences, if the peace is attained as soon as possible, that's all right with us.

[Savir] Japan has never participated so much in local conflicts, not to mention international conflicts. What really brought your government into taking part in a local conflict like ours, for instance?

[Tsutsumi] I can say two things. One, we have been quite active in regional conflicts in the Asian area. And then recently we are very much prepared to get into the Gulf war. But now, the interest about the Middle Eastern conflict has arisen in Japan mainly because of the intifada [uprising] since the last December. So, the foreign minister wishes to respond to the interest of the Japanese people.

[Savir] How did the Japanese people react to the intifada, to the last 6 months in the territories? What is the general reaction?

[Tsutsumi] Frankly speaking the reaction was not so favorable to Israelis because most of them saw in their TV programs, American programs actually, about the situation in the territories. What they saw was, as you know, the stonethrowing and the action of the Israeli forces. So, generally their interest was heightened, but not quite in a favorable way toward Israel. However, we are very much interested in a political promotion of the peace and stability of the area. So, if our economic activities can contribute to that aim, we will be very much willing.

Beilin Discusses Relations With Japan, Poland

TA2606153388 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Margalit] Let me ask you about Japan. The first question that comes to mind now that the Japanese foreign minister is visiting Israel is why should the Japanese be interested in the Middle East political process at all? They are involved in business, so why should they get bogged down in this quagmire from which no one has yet emerged dry?

[Beilin] First of all, some have gotten out dry. President Carter may be a good case in point. But regarding the Japanese, they have recently undergone a certain change. Japan is currently a major economic power—ranking third, fourth, or fifth in the world. As a major power it cannot ignore problem areas—areas that are suffering from conflicts—in the world. It is in their interest to solve conflicts. This is a phenomenon that has been noted over the past few years. The Japanese have demonstrated their desire to delve into conflicts and help resolve them, whether politically or through economic measures. They may be interested in exactly that type of

solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, namely in finding an economic solution. We are definitely interested in seeing Japan involved in extending economic aid in conjunction with the political solution to that conflict.

[Margalit] Let me rephrase the question: Are we interested in seeing Tokyo politically involved in Middle East affairs? We recall that after the Yom Kippur War Japan surrendered to the Arab oil boycott. To this day it has never condemned the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

[Beilin] That is correct. We have a real problem with Japan insofar as the Arab boycott is concerned. Nevertheless, a change for the better has been noted over the past few years. At the same time, I must admit that Japan capitulated to the Arab boycott almost completely, especially after the Yom Kippur War. We would like to see Japan involved mainly in the economic sphere, realizing at the same time that such involvement is impossible without some trace of political involvement. Hence, there is definitely room for some Japanese political activity, within the confines of certain parameters.

[Margalit] Now regarding your recent visit to Warsaw. We know that only the lowest level of diplomatic relations currently exists between Israel and Poland. The two countries have exchanged only commercial delegations. We also know that full relations, that is to say embassies, will be established only if Israel accepts an international conference. This is the position of the Soviet bloc. Is it possible to hope that the level of relations with Poland could be elevated beyond their current state, to some point between the two extremes we have just mentioned?

[Beilin] Right now we have interest offices. Our's functions under the auspices of the Netherlands Embassy; their's operates here under the aegis of the PKO [Polish Savings] Bank. This is certainly a unique political arrangement. Like you, I also believe that between the present state of affairs and the state of full diplomatic relations there are some additional intermediate stations. I would not rule out the possibility—and this is a view that I hold even more strongly since my visit to Poland last week—that such changes may occur before full relations are established.

[Margalit] Are you saying that we may see an Israeli mission in Warsaw in the near future, even before Israel accepts an international conference—if it accepts such a notion at all?

[Beilin] Maybe not a mission, but I can definitely envision a certain change in our relations.

[Margalit] Then let us run through the various diplomatic levels: Is a consulate a realistic possibility?

[Beilin] Again, I would caution against getting into diplomatic jargon. I believe that there are some possibilities between the present state of affairs and the optimal situation. One of them will undoubtedly materialize, unless we reach an Israeli acceptance, soon, of an international conference that would—according to the Polish—lead to full diplomatic relations at once. I hope we reach that stage.

[Margalit] I understand that in Warsaw you conducted talks about economic issues, tourism, exports, and the like. Let me first ask you something about the economic sphere: Why has Israel been preventing the import of Polish cars into Israel, citing the absence of a Polish Embassy in Israel as the reason for this decision?

[Beilin] The Cabinet has not made a decision on the matter, although I understand the Transportation Ministry did. If you ask me whether we are obligated to prevent imports due to the absence of full diplomatic relations, I would reject such an idea. I am all in favor of economic relations running parallel to, or even anticipating, diplomatic relations, thereby paving the road for the establishment of such ties. I say this without entering into the specific question of cars which, incidentally, was not broached in my meetings. [passage omitted]

Peres Interviewed on Palestinian Situation

OW2406235488 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by NHK announcer Jiro Hirano from Tokyo NHK Studio via satellite relay, in English with Japanese subtitles; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hirano] Mr Minister, thank you very much for joining us this morning. For the first time, a Japanese minister is going to visit Israel shortly. What do you expect to discuss with him?

[Peres] Well, since this is the first time, I think, the most important thing is to make an acquaintance not only between ourselves as persons but between our two countries as political entities. I think the Japanese foreign minister will probably be interested to learn about the foreign policy of Israel, and we shall be very much interested to learn about the concepts and the policies of Japan.

[Hirano] Thank you very much, and I wonder if you could tell us what is happening in Israel and what the policy is there? For example, the news from the occupied territories are shocking as well as disturbing to the Japanese audience. When, say, Israeli soldiers fire tear gas or fire rubber bullets or hit Palestinian Arabs with nightsticks, certainly you do not want this kind of situation there.

[Peres] Well, we face here and there some problems because of the fire as you have said. Because of molotov cocktails being thrown at our soldiers occasionally, we

are trying to respond with a great deal of patience and avoid any part of being trigger happy; we feel it is our task to assure the lives not only of the Israelis but also of the Palestinians.

[Hirano] If I may express my personal experience— I visited some of the spots of the occupied territories 3 years ago— I found many so-called permanent settlements, buildings built permanently. And does this mean that you have no intention of giving these territories up?

[Peres] Well, we have in Israel, as you know, two opinions, not one. I represent an opinion which is ready to make a territorial compromise for real peace, and I do believe that once we shall find an Arab partner that will be ready to enter negotiations, we shall find, as I have said, a way out of the troubles.

[Hirano] Are you saying that you will have to negotiate directly with Palestinians in the future?

[Peres] Well, we want to meet with the Palestinians, and with representatives of the Palestinians, and we are prepared to compromise to solve the Palestian problem in all its aspects. We recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. What we don't accept is the PLO because this is an organization based on terror and violence, and doesn't offer a real opportunity of solving the problem.

[Hirano] You are saying that there's no possibility to solve the problem in the near future because you are not going to negotiate with the PLO and the Palestinians do not have any alternate strong governing body.

[Peres] The PLO says that all Palestinians who reside on the West Bank are for the PLO. If this is the case, there are many leaders, practically all of the leaders of the PLO of the West bank who are accepted by us. [as heard] We don't reject a Palestinian leader because he has this view or that view. We don't censor the opinions of the Palestinians, but we censor their right to carry weapons and use them against us if we want to negotiate.

[Hirano] What is the basic difference between your ideas and Mr Shamir's ideas? Is it the difference between hawk and dove?

[Peres] Well, basically it is about two issues. One, I am ready to go through an international conference, and Mr. Shamir objected. And secondly, I am ready to announce support for a territorial compromise which I am not sure that Mr. Shamir will support.

[Hirano] And a territorial compromise means that you are going to return some of the territories back to Jordan.

[Peres] Well, I said that we are ready to give back part of the land.

[Hirano] How do you harmonize these two different ideas in the government?

[Peres] It will be decided in the coming election on 1 November.

[Hirano] And do you think that your ideas will win?

[Peres] Yes. I am rather optimistic and I think we are going to win.

UK Asked To Help Reactivate Project With Jordan

TA2406111488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 88 p A3

["Exclusive" report from London by Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Text] Israel asked Britain to help reactivate an Israeli-Jordanian Dead Sea oil shale processing project.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday conveyed the request to his British counterpart, Cecil Parkinson, in London. Previous Israeli-Jordanian cooperation on the issue stopped at the outset of the uprising in the territories.

The two ministers also discussed possibilities for launching energy processing projects in the Third World with Israeli know-how and British financing.

Shomron Says Political, Economic Solution Needed

TA2606104488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, reviewed the latest security events in the territories at today's Cabinet session. Several Likud ministers criticized what they called the inability of the defense establishment to prevent such incidents in the territories. Minister Moshe Qatzav expressed surprise that the security forces are unsuccessful in preventing the printing and distribution of pamphlets. The minister proposed introducing identical license plates on both sides of the Green Line to prevent attacks on Israeli vehicles.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i criticized the remarks by the chief of staff who said at the start of the meeting that the unrest in the territories can only be put down by political and economic means, and not military measures. The Cabinet is still in session.

Cabinet Discusses IDF Measures in Territories

TA2706101188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] Likud and Alignment ministers squabbled at yesterday's weekly cabinet session over the measures used by the IDF in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

In his survey of the week's troubles, the chief of general staff noted that the number of petrol bomb attacks had fallen to 16, compared with 36 in the previous week. He suggested that the IDF's stern measures may have been partly responsible. He said there were fewer stone-throwing incidents in the territories, and fewer attacks against civilians, during the past seven days.

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, reporting on Israel proper and East Jerusalem, said there were 139 hostile incidents recorded by the police, as compared with only 121 the week before, 68 of which involved arson or attempted arson, and 43 stone-throwing, while the rest involved roadblocks, tyre-burning and hoisting the PLO flag.

He said that some arsonists apprehended were as young as nine or 10.

Bar-Lev said the fire problem was hard to cope with, because of the lack of fire stations in every part of the country. [passage omitted]

IDF Said Using Needles, Hatchets on Interrogees

TA2606080088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jun 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Al-Amari—A paratroop patrol in this refugee camp carried an improbable and mysterious piece of equipment on Friday: a black attache case which, according to local residents, contained a hypodermic needle and a hatchet used by soldiers to intimidate residents under questioning.

People interviewed at random in various parts of the camp said soldiers had used the needle to inject persons and threaten others. One man exhibited two fresh needle marks on his arm and said he had also been threatened with the hatchet. Another, detained and beaten by troops, said he had been threatened with the syringe and hit with the hatchet handle. The IDF commander in the West Bank and other senior officers are to investigate the charges, following queries over the weekend by THE JERUSALEM POST.

On Friday, battalion commanders and soldiers were quizzed on the reported damaging of homes and brutality by troops at Al-Amari, but no findings have been released by the Army. An IDF spokeswoman said the Army had no knowledge of the reported abuses and had received no complaints, but was checking the allegations and taking them seriously. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest; Related Incidents in Territories

DFLP 'Terrorist Squads' Caught

TA2606164488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1610 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The security forces and the Jerusalem Police division dealing with minorities have uncovered several terrorist squads belonging to Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP. The squads were beginning to organize. These are local squads which also have links to the Islamic Jihad. Our correspondent Moti Amir telephones the details:

Right now we have no information about the number of detainees. They are suspected of organizing disturbances in Jerusalem, disseminating leaflets, painting graffiti on walls, and carrying out a host of terrorist attacks. One such case involved the squad members' plan to ambush and stab a Jew in the Old City of Jerusalem. They are also charged with hurling Molotov cocktails. Incidents cited include 13 May when they attacked a Border Police foot patrol near Damascus Gate, 24 May when they threw a firebomb on Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's car, and several other similar incidents in which the targets were Border Police patrols.

The detainees are still undergoing questioning. A complete news blackout has been imposed on the interrogation.

Soldier Stabbed Hitchhiking

TA2606044988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] A reserve soldier said he was stabbed last night by four Arabs who tried to grab his rifle. The soldier was waiting for a ride at the Mesubbim hitchhiking stop in the Tel Aviv area. The soldier reached a nearby police station with his arm and shoulder injured and was treated in hospital. He was only lightly hurt. The police set up roadblocks.

In the territories last night, an explosive charge went off near an Israeli bus as it was leaving the Samarian settlement of Homesh. Nobody was injured and damage to the bus was slight. Security forces began a search of the area.

Nabulus Stonings Cause Injury

TA2406151788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on Nabulus this afternoon after an Israeli vehicle was stoned on the main road, near the mosque. The passengers of the vehicle, a man and a woman, were slightly injured. The passengers fired at their attackers. In the afternoon, several wounded people arrived at Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. Some of them were wounded in the firing and some by rubber bullets and tear gas.

13 Wounded in Nabulus Unrest

TA2406163488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpts] A curfew has been imposed on Nabulus following a riot and a car stoning incident. [passage omitted] A riot took place in Nabulus later, and was dispersed by the security forces. Thirteen wounded were brought to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. Some of them were wounded in the firing, and some by rubber bullets and tear gas.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, visited Hebron and Nabulus following today's incidents. He met with commanders and conducted debriefings. During his visit to Hebron, Mitzna' lauded the rapid reaction of Yona Haykin, who was stabbed in Hebron but chased his assailants. He also praised the security forces.

Roadside Bomb Used Against Bus

TA2606133188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Ya'aqov Rahamim, Gid'on Maron, Eytan Levin, Amir Gilat, Me'ir Hare'uveni, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] A firebomb was thrown and a roadside bomb activated last night against a no. 38 Egged bus at the exit from the settlement of Homesh. The bus was damaged by the explosions, but nobody was injured. The IDF expressed concern over the roadside bomb and pointed out that this was the first time since the uprising began that such a device has been operated in Samaria.

The charge, which was operated from a distance, shows daring, and it is assumed that a band which has been using live ammunition has recently been operating in the Nabulus-Janin area.

Initial checks show that the firebomb went off before the roadside charge was activated. [passage omitted]

Stonethrowings Leave 1 Injured

TA2606200688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] An Israeli citizen was attacked with stones in the township of Bayt Lahiyah in the north of the Gaza Strip today. He was forced to abandon his car. He was in Bayt Lahiyah on business when local residents started pelting his car with rocks. He fired his gun at the stonethrowers. When he realized he could not chase them away he abandoned his car and escaped the area. Later, when he returned to the township he found out that his car was burned out. The security forces have imposed a curfew on Bayt Lahiyah and searched the area.

A section of Gaza's main road was placed under curfew today for several hours by the IDF. The curfew was in order to allow the IDF to blow up the second story of a building. A week ago firebombs were hurled from the roof of the building, hitting several IDF soldiers. Yesterday an attempt to demolish the house without the use of explosives failed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 26 June adds that "an Israeli passenger was injured this evening by a stone thrown at her car while passing Kannot Junction. The woman was hit in the eye and was taken to Kaplan Hospital for treatment. The windshield of another car was smashed. A thorn field was set on fire today in the same area. An orange grove was set on fire today in Nes Ziyyona. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that the police believe that all of these incidents have a nationalistic background."]

Further Details on Unrest

TA2506125888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Rioters were dispersed in the Nabulus casbah at noon today after throwing stones at soldiers and erecting roadblocks. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that one of the rioters was slightly wounded by the soldiers' fire.

In Ramallah and Al-Birah there were also incidents involving stone throwing and the erection of roadblocks. The IDF dispersed the rioters.

Stones and bottles were thrown at a police van and private vehicles opposite the Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the windshield of one of the cars was smashed, but nobody was hurt. The police and border policemen dispersed the stone throwers with rubber bullets and tear gas, then chased and detained three of them. Some time later stones were thrown at a bus which was traveling on the Al-Sultan Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem, smashing most of its windshields. There were no passengers on the bus.

25 Arrested in Jerusalem

TA2706121988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[Excerpt] The Shin Bet and the Jerusalem police have dealt the intifada [uprising] operators in Jerusalem and its surroundings a heavy blow in recent weeks. After prolonged surveillance, the police detained 25 young Arab men, most of whom are residents of East Jerusalem. They are suspected of a series of terrorist operations in Jerusalem.

The security forces apprehended, among others, a squad of 11 members, including an 18-year-old woman, which had been connected with and acted on orders from Nayif Hawatimah's PFLP. The other detainees were members of three- to four-member squads, who were active within the intifada and who willingly followed the instructions of the communiques disseminated in the territories. The majority of the detainees are age 17 to 23 and all are suspected of hostile activities, including throwing Molotov cocktails, attempted assaults, burning a money changer's shop, and throwing a Molotov cocktail at Minister Sharon's car while his wife, Lili, was driving.

The squads' exposure and arrest may take the sting out of the intifada in Jerusalem. The arrests should be viewed as particularly significant in view of the fact that some of the squads carried out parallel but unrelated operations. Security sources believe that several other squads are still active in the area and are carrying out attacks in the spirit of the Palestinian communiques disseminated in the territories.

The main squad, which was affiliated with Hawatimah's organization, was active during the past 6 months. The arrests of the squad members were begun in early June; the last suspects were rounded up last weekend. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Girls Schools Closed

TA2506053688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Two East Jerusalem schools for girls were closed this morning following riots. Students of one of the schools are staging a demonstration on Al-Rashid Street, protesting the closure of their school and the loss of a school year.

School Closed for 1 Week

TA2606170988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The Jerusalem Municipality and the Education Ministry have decided to halt studies at the Al-Rashidiyah Municipal High School in East Jerusalem for a week beginning tomorrow. The decision was made in view of the fact that classes in that high school end at 1200 rather than at 1400, as per the decision reached between the staff and school principal regarding the syllabus.

Gaza Allows Matriculation Exam

TA2406164188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has decided to allow all high school students to participate in matriculation examinations this Sunday under the supervision of Egyptian education supervisers. A Civilian Administration source warned that following disruptions in the education system in recent months, the administration will check students' school attendance during this period, and students with an insufficient attendance rate will receive an external matriculation card. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a delegation of education supervisers arrived in Gaza today, as in every year in the past.

Arab Committee Condemns Arson

TA2606121688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The Israeli Committee of Arab Local Councils has condemned the recent wave of arsons, saying that destruction is not the right way to conduct a struggle. The committee heads said that the fires were set by Arabs from the territories and not Arabs from Israeli villages. At the same time, the committee stressed that most of the fires were not set deliberately but resulted from natural causes or began in garbage dumps neighboring on the villages.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that representatives of the Committee of Arab Local Councils have promised to assist the Jewish National Fund in preventing fires, maintaining observation posts to detect arsonists, and assisting the fire trucks in their villages.

The committee heads said that the police hurry to accuse Arab citizens of arson even prior to their interrogation.

Court Stops House Confiscation

TA2606071888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] This morning, the High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction barring the commander of Judaea and Samaria from evacuating two Halhul families from their house. The order will be effective until the families' appeal, which was submitted this morning, is heard.

The IDF order to confiscate the house was issued on 23 June, following incidents of stone throwing on the highway bordering the house. To prevent the confiscation, the families appealed to the high court through attorney Felicia Langer. An interim injunction barring the confiscation was issued.

UNRWA, Local Statistics on Gaza Refugees

TA2706131988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 p 3

[Report by correspondent in the south Dani Tzidqoni]

[Text] Data for 1988 on Gaza Strip refugees, recently released by UNRWA, indicates that the exact number of refugees presently living in the Gaza Strip is 445,397.

According to the agency's report, 244,416 of them are residents of eight local refugee camps.

According to statistics compiled by the Israeli administration, some 320,000 out of the 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip are refugees, and some 70 percent of these live in camps.

Territory Notables Support Abu Sharif Document
TA2606163088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A poll conducted by the East Jerusalem weekly AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI shows support by prominent figures in the territories for the Abu Sharif document.

Among the document's supporters is Faysal Al-Husayni, who has recently completed a 9-month administrative detention term. He said that the document does not contradict the PNC resolution. Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Press Association and a former administrative detainee, also supported the document, calling it a brave step.

Left-wing figures have also expressed their support of the document. One such personality is Dr Haydar 'Abd Al-Shafi, head of the Gaza Strip Red Crescent. He said that a military solution for the territories no longer exists and it is necessary to start direct Israeli-Palestinian talks within the framework of an international conference.

Japan's Uno Makes Statement, Departs 24 Jun

JN2406114588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Amman—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has affirmed the support of the Japanese people and government for Jordan's continued efforts under His Majesty King Husayn to achieve a just, durable, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. In a statement before departing Amman for Cairo at noon today, Uno said that his country puts a high value on Jordan's role and efforts to achieve stability and security in the Middle East.

The minister thanked His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, for receiving him and acquainting him with the latest developments in the Middle East, and for giving him an opportunity to visit some cultural sites in Jordan. He said that his current Middle East tour and meetings with senior officials come as an expression of Japan's interest in developments in the region as well as Japan's intention to exert every possible effort to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Uno was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director of the Bilateral Relations Department, the director of the International Organizations Department, the head of the Europe and Japan section at the ministry, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Al-Masri Comments on Visit

JN2406155688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the talks held by Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and his delegation with Jordanian officials were both useful and constructive in tackling various topics that concern the interests of the two friendly states.

In reply to a question from the PETRA-JNA correspondent, he added that the talks had dealt with enhancing bilateral relations—which were developing—in light of the Japanese Government's readiness to provide all kinds of support to develop the Jordanian economy. Al-Masri referred to a previous decision by the Japanese Government to grant the Jordanian Government a $300-million loan to support development efforts in Jordan. He indicated that one of the accomplishments of Uno's visit to Jordan was an agreement on details of how part of the loan is to be spent.

On the role that Japan might play in advancing the Middle East peace process, Al-Masri said: Japan—as a major industrial country, a UN Security Council member, and in light of its latest measures to increase its economic aid to developing countries—now carries a very important political weight, which enables it to contribute effectively to peace efforts. He voiced the belief that the Japanese foreign minister will convey to Israeli officials during his coming visit to the occupied Arab territories his country's point of view on this issue, which he said yesterday is in complete harmony with the Jordanian and Arab views.

On the Middle East peace conference, Al-Masri said that Japan's position is clear and that it supports the convening of a conference according to the formula proposed by the Arabs and supports PLO participation in this conference. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince on U.S. Plan, Palestinians

JN2506072688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jun 88 pp 1, 5

[By Salamah Ni'matt]

[Text] Amman—The latest American peace initaitive was calculated to fill a political vacuum in the Middle East in the wake of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories rather than to draw the region's protagonists closer together in the service of peace in the area, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said Thursday.

"There is an abiding fear that the U.S. Administration is involved not so much in bridge building or the process of continuity of its foreign policy, but in a gap-filling process," the regent told a group of Japanese journalists accompanying visiting Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

The regent expressed concern that Washington may not be giving the Middle East problem the attention it deserves due to other global issues sitting high on the superpower agenda.

He said it was "extremely worrying to see the international conference jeopardised by an international agenda." He was referring to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and issues related to global economy, giving a low priority to the Middle East conflict.

The regent said the recent Algiers Arab summit conference made it clear that despite criticism of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's initiative, the Arab states" did not close the door on the proposed international conference."

"We certainly regard the U.S. and Soviet role in the region as a lynchpin" for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said, pointing that the proposed conference remained "very much on the Arab agenda" in the wake of the Algiers summit.

Prince Hasan said the Arab desire to maintain the momentum of the international conference emanates from the need to address the causes rather than the symptoms of conflict in the area.

"There has to be an Arab strategy which is yet to evolve," the Crown Prince said. During the summit "We spoke of economic support," he added, pointing out that Jordan "knows very well the price of the Israeli occupation."

He said the Algiers summit recognised Jordan as one channel of support to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through its Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. He said other recognised channels of support were the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations.

The Crown Prince referred to the creeping Israeli annexation of occupied Arab territories and warned that this problem could not be dealt with properly "through gesture politics and philanthropy."

"We call for a comprehensive socio-economic plan for the occupied territories." He told jounalists on the eve of the visit to Jordan of the Japanese foreign Minister. He said Japan could play a constructive role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Middle East region once a political solution was reached.

Prince Hasan described Jordan as "the open Arab window" on the occupied territories, helping fight the process of creeping annexation and transplantation of the Palestinian Arab population.

He pointed out to forces within the Israeli political body calling for a Palestinian solution on Jordanian soil, an idea referred to as a "transfer of population." He said that an economic and social package needs to be prepared for the occupied territories to support their resistance of Israel plans, but not as an alternative to the recognition of their Palestinian right to self- determination.

"It is essential for the Palestinian Arab people to continue to be tied to their land. The continued Israeli violence and counterviolence, and the continued deprivation can only weaken their resolve," he added.

He said Israeli threats to force a Palestinian population transfer to Jordan should not be taken lightly: "It will be counterproductive to be alarmist about these threats, but it is also counterproductive to ignore them."

The Crown Prince praised Japan's support for the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, saying the accord achieved three precedents of importance to the Middle East in terms of conflict resolution.

He said the accord achieved agreement on Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, the return of Afghan refugees and the recognition of the Afghan people's right to self-determination. He noted that there was a confluence between the three conflict areas—the Afghan problem, the Gulf war and the Arab Israeli conflict.

"It is of extreme importance for us to see a drawing influence of Japan in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of these areas, being developed commensurately with its useful diplomatic role."

He said Japan has the reputation and integrity in the Middle East and the diplomatic standing of great significance to a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that the ongoing tour by Uno showed a growing Japanese interest and increasing engagement in the area.

British Hostage Release Reportedly Set for July

NC2506080688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jun (MENA)—Highly-placed Lebanese political sources have stated that recent British-Iranian contacts have succeeded in setting a release date for the three British hostages held captive in Lebanon before the end of July.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites the source as saying that a secret agreement has been finalized between Britain and Iran similar to the agreement concluded between Iran and France 2 months ago. The paper notes that the agreement provides for reorganizing British-Iranian relations and increasing the number of diplomats at the Iranian Embassy in the British capital.

Further Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

Camps Committee Ends Efforts

NC2506163988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] A guarded calm prevails over the combat lines in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps, marred by occasional exchanges of gunfire between 'Arafat supporters and dissidents. A Fatah source has said that his movement does not want to fight and wishes to put an end to the tragedy in the camps.

According to Palestinian sources, the quadripartite committee has decided to freeze its efforts to end the fighting because their previous efforts with the disputing parties have failed. The committee sent a cable to the commanders of the Palestinian groups in Damascus, demanding that they shoulder their responsibility and end the fighting. The sources say that some 90 percent of the Shatila camp has been destroyed. A hospital in the camp, hit by five shells last night, has also been destroyed.

Shatila Fighting Resumes

NC2606053688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Following a guarded calm, Palestinian factions have resumed fighting in Shatila camp. 'Arafat supporters and dissidents have been exchanging intermittent artillery and machinegun fire since 0530 today. This latest setback comes after the quadripartite committee suspended its efforts because the combatants did not observe a cease-fire agreement.

Shatila 'Completely Destroyed'

NC2606195988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] A Fatah Movement official has stated that the Shatila camp has been completely destroyed in today's shelling. He pointed out that the shells fell at the rate of 25 per minute and that the hospital, the mosque, and the cemetery in the camp came under shellfire.

According to the latest casualty toll, 8 people were killed and 17 others wounded in today's fighting between 'Arafat supporters and Fatah dissidents.

Message Sent to Gorbachev

NC2706055188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The security situation in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps has deteriorated. Clashes involving the use of artillery, machineguns, and rockets have been raging since 0430 this morning. The sounds of explosions are echoing in Beirut and the suburbs.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has addressed an urgent message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the serious situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, handed the message to the Soviet ambassador in Tunis

Shatila Evacuation Begins

NC2706103088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Security sources reported a short while ago that the Syrian-backed dissident factions have gained virtual control over Shatila camp. The evacuation of the surrounded pro-'Arafat gunmen from their last positions has begun. They are departing in the direction of Sidon, the sources add.

According to reports, the evacuation process came in the wake of negotiations undertaken by a Libyan envoy. These negotiations were interrupted for some time because the Syrians objected to pro-'Arafat gunmen being allowed to leave with their personal weapons.

In another development, the unified command of the Uprising has, in obvious support of 'Arafat's stand, called on the Libyan and Algerian leaders to intervene immediately to persuade Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to order his troops to stop the destruction of Palestinian camps in Beirut.

Libyans Assist in Evacuation

NC2706102688 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Beirut, June 27 (AFP)—Palestinian guerrillas loyal to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat were evacuating the Shatila refugee camp in southern Beirut Monday after two months of fighting with pro-Syrian Palestinian dissidents, a Libyan officer said here.

"We're trying to get out the last 10 to 15 fighters still in Shatila to take them to Sidon," in southern Lebanon, said Commander Salim Farjani, who entered the camp with 26 other Libyan military observers.

Twenty-five other guerrillas from the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) mainstream Fatah group surrendered to Syrian or pro-Syrian forces surrounding the camp during the morning, he said.

Lebanese police said the pro-Syrian Palestinian dissidents of Colonel Abu Musa's Fatah Provisional Command (FPC) halted their merciless 24-hour bombardment of the camp during the morning. As many as 20 mortar shells a minute were landing on Shatila during the barrage.

"The camp is from now on under our protection," the Libyan officer declared. "Any attack on Shatila is an attack against the Libyan revolution."

At least 94 people have been killed and some 500 wounded since fighting between Fatah and the FPC erupted April 30 in the Palestinian enclaves of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah in southern Beirut, five days after a "reconciliatory" meeting between Mr. 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus.

Fatah guerrillas, who had pushed FPC fighters to the outskirts of the camps, were still in control of Burj al-Barajinah.

Syrian troops control all of Moslem West Beirut as well as the suburban neighbohoods that surround the camps, but they have not deployed inside the compounds.

Group Vows Revenge for Syrian Role in Camps War

NC2606191688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] In a contact with Radio Free Lebanon this evening, an organization calling itself the Long Arm [Al-Yadd al-Ta'ilah] held the head of the Syrian regime personally responsible for the crimes being committed against the Palestinians in the Beirut camps. The organization said that the annihilation of the Palestinians will not go unpunished and that it knows when and how to retaliate violently against all officials of the Syrian regime. The organization noted that the ongoing war in the Palestinian camps is not an inter-Palestinian war because the role of the so-called dissidents no longer exists in these camps. It is the Syrian Al-Asad battalion which is waging the battle, the organization said.

Fatah Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC2706084588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Munir al-Muqaddam, the Fatah official in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp, has escaped an assassination attempt. An explosive device planted in front of his office went off this morning, wounding one person. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Vows To Continue 'Holy Struggle'

NC2606124788 Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek 26 Jun 88 pp 1,2

[Excerpts] The pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad organization" sent a letter to this newspaper yesterday warning that it will continue its terrorist activities "against the enemies of the Islamic world" until "the faithful sons of Allah" are freed from prison and the occupied Muslim areas are liberated.

Immediately upon receipt of the letter, we contacted police headquarters and informed the highest ranking police officer of its contents. Later we sent a copy of the letter to police headquarters.

A police spokesman told ELEVTHEROTIPIA that the security authorities will carry out an in-depth study of the letter, and will adopt all the necessary measures to forestall and prevent terrorist acts on the Republic's territory. [passage omitted]

The full text of the Islamic organization's letter, which reached our newspaper's offices yesterday, is as follows:

"On 20 June 1988, the High Command of the Islamic Jihad Organization held a session in Beirut to review the situation in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, U.S. policy in the area, Turkey's treacherous role, Israel's terrorist actions on the West Bank, as well as to map out the organization's operations in the future.

"The conclusion is that the U.S. Administration, in pursuance of its imperialist goals, is trying hard to take advantage of the situation in the area. The trips of George Shultz in the Middle East 'to achieve peace in the area' are nothing but an American machination in favor of Israel.

"The Zionist enemy, with American support, is pursuing a policy of international terrorism and genocide against the Palestinian people. The Israeli Army has even surpassed the Nazis in harshness. Innocent women, children, and youths are being killed without trial or condemnation, and entire villages have been razed. Never before has humanity witnessed such barbarity.

"The rulers of Turkey, with Kenan Evren above all others, have aligned themselves with this campaign unleashed by their allies.

"Despite the fact that they themselves have placed our Muslim brothers under pitiless persecution and terrorism. [sentence as published] Thousands of the faithful sons of Allah are rotting in prison. Our Kurdish brothers are being exterminated in the most foul manner. The Turkish rulers willingly offer to cooperate with the American imperialists and the Zionist enemy in their activities to undermine the Islamic countries.

"The Turkish secret service supplies the Israeli secret service with the information necessary to conduct their terrorist operations. Turkey is an Islamic country, but only in words; in actions it is like a Trojan horse within our ranks.

"Taking into account the aforesaid conclusions, the High Command of the Islamic Jihad Organization appeals to Muslims all over the world to fight for:

"The rights of the Palestinian people and an end to the barbarous outrage against our brothers;

"The withdrawal of U.S. forces from all Islamic states and seas, as well as a decision on a scheduled date for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied Arab lands and the holy places of Jerusalem;

"The release from the prisons in Turkey, Egypt, Kuwait, France, and elsewhere of all the faithful sons of Allah, who are ready to sacrifice their lives for our faith.

"The High Command of the Islamic Jihad organization has decided to continue the holy war by all possible means against American imperialism, the Zionist enemy, and traitors like Kenan Evren.

"We shall continue hijacking aircraft and ships, and also killing the enemies of the Islamic world, until the faithful children of Allah are released from prison, and the occupied lands of the Muslims are free.

"On with the holy struggle for the triumph of the Islamic revolution!

"The Islamic Jihad organiztion."

Syrian Soldiers Shoot Iranian Diplomatic Car

NC2606143088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] According to security reports from Al-Biqa', tension increased in the town of Ba'labakk when Syrian occupation forces opened fire on an Iranian diplomatic car there, wounding two Hizballah members. A pro-Hizballah source said that the car belongs to the Iranian ambassador, but did not specify whether it belonged to the Iranian ambassador in Beirut or in Damascus. The source pointed out that the Syrian soldiers opened fire when the car's occupants refused to hand over their arms at the Syrian checkpoint in Ba'labakk. The ambassador was not in the car. Immediately afterward Syrian soldiers were deployed throughout the town and shops were closed.

Car Explosion Kills DFLP Member's Children

NC2606115988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] An explosive charge went off in the car of DFLP Central Committee member Muhammad Murad in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this morning. The blast killed Murad's two sons 'Ali, 12 years, and Mazin, 6 years. The DFLP has accused the Mosad of perpetrating the crime.

3 UNIFIL Irish Soldiers Wounded in 24 Jun Clash

NC2506115688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] A security source in the South disclosed today that three members of UNIFIL's Irish contingent were wounded, two of them seriously, in a clash with an armed group in Bra'shit last night. They have been taken to the UNIFIL hospital in Al-Naqurah.

In another development, a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol has dismantled a land mine on the Al-Qantarah-Marj 'Uyun Road.

PSP-SSNP Clashes Reported in Al-Biqa' 25 Jun

NC2606075388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Clashes erupted again between the PSP and Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] gunmen in western Al-Biqa' last night. A Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent reports that the clashes which broke out between PSP gunmen from 'Ayha and SSNP personnel from Rashayya involved the use of machineguns and rockets, and that the recent Syrian deployment in Rashayya prevented the expansion of these clashes. According to preliminary reports, PSP's Zayn al-Din Zayn al-Din [name as heard] of 'Ayha has been killed and a state of high tension and anxiety prevails in the area.

Israeli-'Agent' Patrol Ambushed; 20 Casualties

NC2606162488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] We have received the following statement from the Islamic resistance front:

Two Islamic resistance groups carried out a surprise ambush against a joint Israeli enemy-agent patrol on the Al-Rummanah-Al-Radar road today. The patrol was made up of a Sherman tank and a Land Rover. The resistance groups attacked with machineguns and rockets, destroying the patrol and killing or wounding 20 enemy troops.

Meanwhile, a resistance artillery unit bombarded enemy supply routes and positions in Sujud and (Bi'r Kulab). An M-48 tank took a direct hit and was set ablaze.

'Large' Israeli Force Enters Rashayya District

NC2706054188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A large Israeli force penetrated 10 km into the liberated areas in the eastern sector [of southern Lebanon] last night, spreading out over the southern and eastern hills of the town of 'Ayn 'Ata in the Rashayya al-Wadi district, and coming within 1.5 km of the town.

The Israeli force, estimated at 500 soldiers and 30 armored vehicles, crossed the security zone after shelling the 'Ayn 'Ata region.

The Israeli force has arrested 6 persons who were working in their fields. They are Mahfuz al-Haj, Sabah Ghazalah, Majid al-Qadi, Qadi al-Qadi, Nabil al-Haj, and Kamal Hamdan.

Information Minister on Palestinian Camp Fighting
JN2506155588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman declared today that while Syria urges fighters in the Palestinian camps in Beirut to stop fighting, it does not want to interfere physically, as some have been suggesting, by confiscating the weapons of one of the parties. In a statement to REUTER, the minister added: Naturally when Syria decides to intervene, it will take physical measures affecting the combatants and their weapons on all sides. But Syria's decision is not to intervene other than by giving advice and through political action.

Radio Views Israel's 'Clamor' on Missiles
JN2306143788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] This is not the first time that Israel has raised a hue and cry about the acquisition by this or that Arab country of a new weapon, or about this or that Arab country's intention to develop its defense capabilities. Nor is this the first time that Israel has sought to overcome its internal crisis by citing an external danger, which usually means any development in Arab defense capabilities in general.

However, the new Israeli clamor acquires a special significance under these circumstances. First, it comes as a reaction to the dilemma Israel is facing as a tyrannical occupation force that is antagonizing world opinion—which has demonstrated a noticeable sympathy with the uprising being staged by the Arab citizens of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon and which has been going on for nearly 7 months. In this context, the artificial Israeli clamor looks like an attempt to portray Israel's aggression establishment as enjoying a degree of cohesion on all aspects of confronting the uprising. Now that the Israeli elections are nearing, it is easy to understand why all Israeli politicians and generals are competing to voice and manifest their oppressive skills and their terrorist tendencies, which have been entrenched within them for a long time. Although they are playing political roles, it should be said that their innate nature as sons of the underground terrorist Zionist organizations governs their performance and dominates their political behavior.

This nature, which always prefers to pursue expansionist policies, has been bolstered during the wars of aggression launched by Israel against the Arab nation. Throughout all this, many Israeli theories, such as those of the invincible army, the long arm, the secure borders, and the permanent military superiority, have been formed.

While we do not belittle the enemy's strength, it should be said that the October war, the war of attrition, the Palestinian people's uprising, and the overwhelming development in the technology of modern weapons have proved that the Israeli theories are no more than wishful thinking based on illusions rather than facts. Nevertheless, the Israeli aggression establishment has continued to display its old belief in these theories. Israel's clamor about the Syrian missiles falls within this purview. However, it undoubtedly is seeking to achieve additional objectives, foremost among which is moving Zionist pressure groups in the United States to push the United States to speed up its delivery of new arms to Israel, including the new air defense system—costing approximately $4 billion—that news agencies have reported on.

As a matter of fact, there are no signs that the United States needs any pressure in this regard. It has never displayed any sort of reluctance to supply Israel with all the military equipment and arms that are available in its arsenal. Besides, the United States is providing complete political support for Israeli aggression and for the brutal Israeli practices against the Palestinian Arab people, the Syrian citizens of the Golan Heights, and the Lebanese people. However, mobilizing Zionist pressure groups in the United States might be useful to the U.S. and Israeli policies in facilitating the conclusion of various arms deals, which have been termed of strategic significance to the United States by Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state.

But in any case, no arms deal concluded between the United States and its base, Israel, will either change facts or revive dead theories and illusions.

Paper Cited on Calls Against Uprising
JN2706073688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Path of Resistance," TISHRIN says: It is obvious that the Palestinian uprising has shaken the Zionist entity on every levels. It is strange to hear calls which blatantly contradict the trends and facts of the uprising, thereby rendering free services to Israel. At the same time, Israel appears besieged and condemned by the entire world.

TISHRIN adds: The Algiers summit drew up the guidelines for the correct Arab course of action—that of resistance, steadfastness, and adherence to their land and rights. It also condemned separate deals and attempts at surrender. The summit affirmed, through its resolutions, its absolute support for the uprising and the confrontation states until they achieve the deterrent strategic parity. Syria has succeeded in making great strides in this direction. It has proven its effectiveness in practice and that this is the only way to prevent enemy belligerency in the region and to obstruct its expansionist schemes.

TISHRIN says: Since the Arabs in the Algiers summit have consecrated the line of resistance and steadfastness, all people faithful to the cause are dutybound to expose the attempts of some people to depart from these resolutions and to make demands which constitute a blow

against the uprising, against the sacrifices of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland, and against all honest forces which reject the Camp David plot and the course of deviation and defeatism. It is Israel, not the Arabs, which is besieged by the impasse. Zionist society is experiencing sharp contradictions today 7 months after the start of the real war being waged by our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza against the Israeli occupation.

It is necessary to support the uprising and the kinfolk's steadfastness so as to create more contradictions, to expose Israel absolutely before the world, and to make the countries which support the Zionist aggression review their policies. Nobody can deny that the uprising has attracted world support and caused a real jolt to the communities which are known for their loyalty to Israel, such as the American community. The way to seize rights and liberate lands is to support the uprising, reinforce the spirit of resistance, and mobilize strenght to build strategic parity and not to render free services to an enemy which refuses to acknowledge even the existence of the Palestinian people.

Afghanistan

8 Soviet Bombers Destroyed in Kabul Airport Fire

BK2606100088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 26 (AFP)—A fire at Kabul airport has destroyed eight Soviet SU-25 fighter-bombers, diplomatic sources here said Sunday.

The destruction of the up-to-date planes was the most serious loss suffered by the Soviet Air Force since the beginning of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan eight years ago, the diplomats said.

The cause of the fire, which began Thursday and continued Friday, was not known.

In another incident, the Afghan resistance shot down a transport plane above the garrison town of Khowst in Paktia Province on June 16, killing at least 30 people, the sources said.

The plane, with a Soviet pilot, had 30 to 40 people on board when it was shot down near Khowst airport. At least 30 military or civilian personnel were killed, the sources added.

Khowst airport has been virtually surrounded by the resistance for the past eight years and is becoming increasingly dangerous because Afghan rebels of the National Islamic Front equipped with U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles are operating in the mountains overlooking the town, informed sources said.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

4 Planes, Helicopter Downed

BK2606172088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 26 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrilas have downed four Afghan Air Force aircraft and a helicopter gunship using sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles, resistance sources here said Sunday.

Three Soviet-made MiGs were downed near the airport at Shindand in western Afghanistan as they were bombing mujahidin positions, the sources said.

One helicopter gunship was shot down by the rebels near Behsud in the eastern Afghanistan Province of Nangarhar, they said, adding that all aboard the helicopter were killed.

Another aircraft was hit by mujahidin anti-aircraft fire and crashed near the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, the sources said. The type of the aircraft was not known.

The mujahidin were reportedly using shoulder-carried U.S.-made Stinger and British-made Blowpipe surface-to-air missiles.

Clash in Helmand; Arms Seized

LD2306214788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The courageous national Armed Forces have inflicted heavy blows on extremist and terrorist elements to restore peace and security for our compatriots.

BAKHTAR reported that an extremist group that was attempting to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in Helmand Province was crushed recently by the national Armed Forces and four members of the group were captured.

The report adds that the security forces have seized rocket launchers, four Kalashnikovs, and a quantity of ammunition.

2 Killed in Attack on Kabul

LD2406173688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that criminals belonging to armed extremist terrorist groups fired heavy weapons on residential areas of Kabul this morning, Friday 24 June. As a result of the extremists' criminal act, two of our compatriots—Nabela, a 10-year old girl from Bini Hesar, and Ghulam Rasul, son of Chaman Hozuri, who was brick-laying at the time in Khvajeh Boghor—were martyred and another person was injured.

The report adds that as a result of this shocking and subversive attack, a number of homes in Kabul were damaged.

Qalat, Qandahar Fighting

BK2406131288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, June 24 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] Fighting was continuing for control of the city of Qalat, the capital of Zabol Province, a rebel source in the Pakistani town of Quetta said Friday.

Rebel forces seized the city June 17 but were forced to retreat two days later under pressure from Kabul troops. Afghan Government forces remained in control of Bala Hesar, an important military post near the city, which the rebels have attacked without success, the source said.

Fighting in Shah Juy, 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the north of Qalat on the road to Kabul, continued Monday with four rebels killed and 12 wounded, the source said. The rebels destroyed several tanks and 11 trucks.

The Soviet Army has bombed several Kabul neighborhoods, including Utkhel, Khayr Khana and Gumrak, to stop rebel infiltration, the rebel source added.

Qandahar remains almost completely surrounded by rebels and only the road that leads to Herat is open, the source said. Afghan Government aircraft have been bombing the rebels regularly from high altitudes, the source added.

About 6,000 Soviet troops and a thousand advisers are concentrated at a nearby airbase, the key defence post of Afghanistan's second-largest city.

PDPA CC Sends Message to CPSU Conference

LD2406082888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 23, BAKHTAR—The participants of the 18th plenum of the PDPA CC in a message sent to the representatives of the 19th country-wide conference of CPSU CC have (?praised) the latter that the internationalist duty of the revolutionaries of Afghanistan is to create favourable conditions for the urgent return of the limited Soviet military contingent to their homeland.

The Geneva accords on the situation around Afghanistan, the message added, has been changed to an event of great historical significance. The signing of Geneva accords became possible as a result of the persistent efforts of the leaders of the PDPA and those of the CPSU. These accords paved the grounds for the Soviet military contingent to return to their homeland as planned after having accomplished their internationalist duty.

The participants of the 18th plenum of the PDPA CC, says the message, after making an assessment of the policy of national reconciliation, came to the conclusion that this policy brought genuine positive results and under the present conditions no wiser alternative other than this exists. We have made a critical analysis of the political military situation of the country which has come about after the beginning of the return of the Soviet military contingent. Although the intransigent enemies have been continuing their subversive actions against the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan have not yet complied by the provisions of Geneva accords, the Armed Forces and voluntary detachments have the capability to defend the country against the opposition group inside the country which are being financed from abroad.

The plenum reiterated that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan should use all their potentials to bring about reliable peace in the country, says the message.

The participants of the plenum in their message have thanked the Soviet Union for its all-sided assistance to Afghanistan and wished further success for the CPSU CC in their plans and programs.

Sharq Discusses Refugees with UN Delegation

LD2306221588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] In his office this afternoon, Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq met with the delegation of the UN High Commission for Refugees to discuss the affairs of returnees and their resettlement. Deputy Foreign Minister Farid Zarif was also present.

During the meeting views were exchanged on ways and means to cooperate with the United Nations on the affairs of returnees and their resettlement. The delegation, which came to Kabul to coordinate that organization's plans with the Afghan authorities, expressed its full readiness to cooperate with the Afghan authorities and to continue its assistance to all the returnees and to the reconstruction of the financial base to provide employment.

The prime minister provided information about the existing resources of the Afghan Government for the reception and resettlement of emigrants and future plans in this regard.

The report adds that the delegation will carry out negotiations in this regard with the Afghan authorities in the next few days.

Memos 32, 33 on Pakistani Violations Sent to UN

LD2506182288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The liaison office between the Afghan Foreign Ministry and UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that yesterday afternoon, 24 June, Afghanistan handed over the 32d note to the mission in Kabul.

According to another report, the liaison office handed over the 33d note to UNGOMAP this afternoon. The note reports seven cases of repeated and blatant violations by Pakistan of article 2 of document 1, with dates, places, and circumstances. The mission has been furnished with sufficient information in this respect and has been requested to investigate Pakistan's violations under paragraph 7 of document 4 of the Geneva agreements. They are to inform Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative of their findings.

Cuban Communications Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Sharq

LD2406103888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] In his office this afternoon at 1600, Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq met with the Cuban minister of communications, His Excellency Manuel Castillo Rebasa, who is the head of the Joint Afghan-Cuban Assistance Commission.

Cuban Ambassador to Afghanistan Regino Farinas Cantero and Afghan Light Industry Minister Dost Muhammad Fazl attended the meeting. Topics of mutual interest were discussed. At the end of the meeting, the head of the Cuban delegation congratulated Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq on his appointment [as prime minister] on behalf of his government and pledged all-round Cuban assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

LD2406110488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Today at the first intergovernmental session of the Afghan-Cuban commission in Kabul, a protocol was signed on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

According to this protocol, the Republic of Cuba will provide all-round assistance to Afghanistan in the fields of public health, training and educaiton, higher education, agriculture, communications, the sugar industry, radio and television, and sports.

Dost Muhammad Fazl, Afghan minister of light industries and foodstuffs, and Manuel Castillo Rebasa, Cuban minister of communications, signed the protocol for their respective sides of the commission and exchanged the relevant documents. Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin was also present.

Departs 24 Jun

LD2506180088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] A Cuban delegation, led by the communications minister, which came to Kabul to participate in the first intergovernmental session of the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation commission between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Cuba, left Kabul yesterday after signing a protocol and meeting officials of the relevant bodies.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent's report, Dost Muhammad Fazl, minister of light industry and foodstuffs and head of the Afghan side of the commission, and the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba in Kabul saw the delegation off at Kabul International Airport.

Karwal Returns From Berlin Nuclear-Free Forum

LD2506202388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Afghan delegation led by Mir Saheb Karwal, PDPA Central Committee candidate member and PDPA Central Committee secretary, returned home today after taking part in the nuclear-free zone conference in Berlin.

According to a BAKHTAR report, the delegation met with Erich Honecker, Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] general secretary and Council of State chairman; Willi Stoph, member of the SED Politburo and Council of Ministers chairman; Oskar Fischer, GDR foreign minister; and Werner Jarowinsky, member of the SED; and exchanged views on consolidating relations between individuals, states, and parties.

The Afghan delegation also met with various party and state delegations participating in the conference. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views West's 'Shameful Propaganda'

LD2506121288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's political commentator writes the following:

There is not a single day that the Western press and propaganda apparatus do not publish rumors and false and hostile propaganda about the situation in and around Afghanistan in order to deceive public opinion in our country, to distort the general opinion, to create fear among the people of our country and to encourage the extremist elements to continue the fratricidal war. Earlier, the Western press claimed that the Soviet forces would never leave Afghanistan and when the return of the forces began in practice they claimed that, as a result, the provinces and provincial centers such as Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar would soon fall following the intensification of attacks by the opposition forces. Recently they have spread many rumors concerning the fall of Qalat city, capital of Zabol Province, and the border city of Spin Buldak.

This poisonous propaganda and the psychological war by the West's propaganda and lie-spreading apparatus has increased since the signing of the Geneva accords and their practical implementation in order to add more fuel to the fire of the fratricidal war and murder of Afghans by his fellow Afghans.

Fortunately, however, the passage of time reveals the truth and reality and the anti-human aims of the Western propaganda operatives. Time has passed and the Soviet military forces have begun their departure from the Republic of Afghanistan. In only 1 month and a few days more than one-quarter of these forces have returned to their peace-loving country. In contrast to the false claims by the West, the return of these forces is taking place not slowly but with speed and based on the program discussed in the Geneva accords. So far, the Soviet units have completely departed from the provinces of Konarha, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Paktia, and Lowgar and the Panjsher district of Parvan Province.

Contrary to the wild and shameful propaganda by such radio stations as the BBC, Voice of America, Voice of Germany, Radio Karachi, etc., who claimed that immediately after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from these regions, the people's power would fall and control of these regions would come into the hands of the Afghan opposition forces, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan continue to protect all these regions on their own and have bravely defended the state power.

Those extremist opposition forces who did not respond to the voice of national peace and who embarked on attacks against the cities I have mentioned, encouraged and incited by the foreign forces, have suffered heavy losses. In a little over a month, as a result of their own attacks and the resistance of the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, the extremists have suffered more than 600 dead and 850 injured. Attacks by extremist bands in Qalat and Spin Buldak, too, have ended in disgraceful defeat and heavy losses. Those extremists who, from the other side of border and at the instructions of the patrons of the militaristic Pakistani regime, were sent to the border city of Spin Buldak, were told that if they were wounded they would receive 30,000 rupees, and if they were killed their families would receive 100,000 rupees. After facing the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and suffering heavy losses of 135 dead and 100 injured, they retreated to the other side of the border again.

The Western radio stations which spread false rumors about the fall of Qalat, capital of Zabol Province, and the border city of Spin Buldak for an entire week in order to divert public opinion in our country, finally had to admit the defeat of the extremists in these cities.

It is worth mentioning here that the Western propagandists, who talk about the defense of human rights and who tear out throats for any breach of human rights, themselves resort in practice to making propaganda for war and adding fuel to the fire of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan. The Western press have always tried to turn a blind eye to the facts of Afghan society and the demands of the absolute majority of Afghanistan's people who are weary of the continuing war and who are thinking about finding a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

The propaganda broadcast by the West's loudspeakers shows clearly that the operators of the Western propaganda machine do not think about the fate of Afghanistan's people nor about the fate of peace in Afghanistan but prefer to make propaganda about issues which cause the continuation of fratricidal war in Afghanistan and cause a large number of Afghans to become the victims of this war. Is it possible to ignore the responsibility and the guilt of the Western press in the shedding of Afghan blood by Afghans? With every passing day the people of Afghanistan are becoming aware of the anti-Afghan nature of the West's false propaganda and are expressing their wrath and indignation about this hostile propaganda.

The West's propaganda about the continuation of war in Afghanistan at the time when the whole world expects the implementation of the Geneva accords in practice and a political and peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan cannot be considered as anything but an anti-human and criminal action.

Commentary on PDPA Central Committee Plenum

LD2706082588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 27 Jun 88

["Commentary on the Significance of the PDPA CC Plenum"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, June 26, BAKHTAR—June plenum of the PDPA CC specifying the duties of party organisations for the country's armed defence is great significance.

At a time when the policy of national reconciliation is under progress it is also vital to defend the country against the enemies more than ever before. The Afghan side has so far made every efforts for fulfilling the Geneva accords but the facts show that the military regime of Pakistan grossly violates the Geneva accords and the opposition extremists are continuing their fratricidal war.

Under such a condition it becomes imperative to further mobilise the forces in the armed deforce of the country as well as that of national sovereignty and peaceful process. Thus, the people's contribution with the detachments of Armed Forces and promotion of military capability are among the first and foremost duties of all citizens. In this campaign the members of the PDPA come in the forefront which will add to the strength of the Armed Forces.

The establishment of party detachments in the cadres of Armed Forces and the set-up of units consisting of the PDPA members is another significant measure in this connection.

Undoubtedly, the plenum's decisions give a positive response to the demands of the time for securing nationwide peace in the country.

Council of Trade Unions Holds 18th Plenum

LD2706082088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0439 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 26, BAKHTAR—The 18th plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan was held here today on expansion of nationwide self-defence groups in institutions and state offices.

At the outset of the meeting 'Abdul Satar Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan read out the main report of the 18th Plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan in regard to work, activity and the achievements scored in the period between the 17th plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions and the 18th plenum.

Later some participants of the plenum from different institutions on behalf of the others expressed their views on the report.

In conclusion, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC, specified the future directions of work to be carried out by the trade unions under the conditions of coalition government.

Referring to the provisions of the recently concluded plenum of the PDPA CC, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added that the plenum assessed the county's armed defence and once again specified our duty in this regard as well as for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

We have certainly adopted a correct course but meanwhile we should not overlook even for a movement to defend in arms the strivings made by bellicose extremists and their international patrons, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added. [sentence as received]

The plenum approved a resolution saying that the self-defence detachments be expanded in the state organs and institutions.

India

Tiwari Summoned From London for 'Urgent' Meeting

BK2406085888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Agency reports from London say that the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, who is on an official visit to Britain, has been asked to return to Delhi for urgent consultation. Mr Tiwari has cancelled all his engagements in London and is immediately returning home. He is expected to reach the capital tonight.

New Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra Ministers Named

BK2506033888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The union finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and Mr Sharad Pawar will be the new chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. They are being sworn in this morning.

Mr Tiwari was unanimously elected the leader of the Uttar Pradesh Congress-I Legislature Party in Lucknow last night. His name was proposed by the outgoing chief minister, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, and seconded by half a dozen members including the state health minister, Mr Lokpati Tripathi; the agriculture minister, Mr Narender Singh; and the forest minister, Mr Baldev Singh Arya. Union Ministers Mr H.K.L. Bhagat and Mr Bindeshwari Dubey were present as central observers. The AICC-I general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the Pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr Mahavir Prasad were also present at the meeting.

Mr Tiwari, who was away in London, arrived in the capital last night. He has since left for Lucknow. The 63-year-old Mr Tiwari has been holding various important posts at the Center and at the state government since 1969. Our Lucknow correspondent reports that Mr Tiwari is assuming the office as the chief minister of the state for the fourth time.

Mr Sharad Pawar was also unanimously elected the leader of the Maharashtra Congress-I Legislature Party at a meeting in Bombay last night. His name was proposed by the outgoing chief minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and seconded by former Maharashtra ministers Mr Ram Rao Adik, Mr Sushil Kumar Sindhe and Mr Jawaharlal Darda. Union Ministers Mr Buta Singh, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, and Mr M.L. Fotedar, and the Congress-I general secretary, Mrs Sheila Kaul, were the party's central observers at the meeting.

Addressing the meeting soon after his election, Mr Pawar vowed to strengthen the forces of unity, secularism, socialism, and democracy. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Pawar said that he will announce the list of his cabinet colleagues in a day or two after consulting the party high command. Our Bombay correspondent reports that 48-year-old Mr Pawar will be the chief minister of the state for the second time during the last 10 years. He held a number of portfolios in the state cabinet before he headed the coalition government in 1978.

'Major Reshuffle' Announced for Federal Cabinet

BK2506071288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] There has been a major induction and reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers. Five ministers with cabinet rank and four ministers of state were sworn in by the president at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning.

The cabinet ministers are: Mr S.B. Chavan, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, Mr B. Shankeranand, Mr Madhav Singh Solanki, and Mr Z.R. Ansari. The ministers of state are: Mr Rafiq Alam Khan, Mr Krishna Kumar, Mr Kalpanath Rai, and Mr K.K. Tiwari.

Mr S.B. Chavan is the new finance minister, while Mr Narasimha Rao has been shifted to external affairs. Mr Bir Bahadur Singh is to look after communications, and Mr Solanki takes over planning. He will also be the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission besides looking after the Program Implementation Ministry.

Mr Ansari, who has been elevated to the cabinet rank, has been given charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Mr B. Shankeranand gets law and justice; Mr Bindeshwari Dubey, labor; and Mr Shiv Shanker, human resource development. Mr Shankeranand will also look after the Ministry of Water Resources. Mr Dinesh Singh will be the new commerce minister. Mr Rafiq Alam Khan has been entrusted with the charge of the Ministry of Textiles, while Mr Kalpanath Rai will be the minister of state for power in the Ministry of Energy. Mr K.K. Tiwari will be the minister of state for external affairs. Mr Krishna Kumar, the deputy minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been elevated as a minister of state in the same ministry. Mr Santosh Mohan Dev has been shifted as minister of state for home, while Mrs Sheila Dikshit will hold additional charge as the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office besides her charge in the parliamentary affairs. Mr Chintamani Panigrahi will be the minister of state for defense production. Mr Shivraj Patil will hold independent charge of civil aviation and tourism as a minister of state. Mr Jagdish Tytler will also have an independent charge as the minister of state for food processing. Mr Giridhar Gomango is the minister of state for communications.

Here are some more details of the reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers: Mr R.K. Malviya, the deputy minister for labor, will hold an additional charge as the deputy minister for parliamentary affairs. Mr P. Namgyal, the deputy minister for surface transport, has also been given an additional charge as the deputy minister for parliamentary affairs.

Gandhi on Reshuffle, Bofors

BK2506093088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Speaking to newsmen soon after the swearing in ceremony [of the cabinet ministers], the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said some changes were needed in the union cabinet to meet the requirements of the states and the Center. He said he wanted to divest himself from some of the portfolios.

Asked about his expectations from the new chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, Mr Gandhi said he has very high expectations. These states will have experienced leaders.

Answering a number of questions on the Bofors deal, Mr Gandhi said recent reports published in an English daily have shown that there is no involvement of the political level at all. He said the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], which is investigating, will soon submit its preliminary report. The government will decide on further course of action after studying the report. The prime minister reiterated that anyone found guilty under the law, high or low, will not be spared.

The prime minister further said that all the aspects of the Bofors deal were examined by the Swedish prosecutor who concluded that no bribe or commission was paid. Mr Gandhi said they have no reason to disbelieve a prosecutor, who is an independent agency. The conclusions of the Joint Parliament Committee [JPC] also reflected the prosecutor's findings. The prime minister denied that the JPC probe was a whitewash.

Spokesman Assails Pakistani 'False Propaganda'

BK2406161388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] India dismissed as baseless, motivated and mischievous a Pakistan Radio broadcast about the possibility of Indo-Israeli collusion to attack Pakistan's nuclear facilities. Reacting to the broadcast, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the Pakistan media has been in the habit of spreading baseless allegations on this and other questions.

The spokesman recalled that the government recently denied reports suggesting that India is upgrading its ties with Israel. He charged Islamabad with indulging in spreading false propaganda against India while Pakistan itself is furiously engaged in pursuing nuclear weapons-oriented program.

7 Senior Leaders of Unified Akali Dal Expelled

BK2706070888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, the Presidium of the Unified Akali Dal has expelled seven senior leaders from the party for 6 years. The decision was taken at a meeting of the presidium of the party in Ludhiana yesterday. According to a party spokesman, the meeting was attended by 9 of the 18 members of the presidium. The expelled members are the party general secretary, Manjit Singh—Calcutta, Mr Saminder Singh, MP [member of Parliament], and five members of SGPC, including the acting president, Mr Ujagar Singh Rangreta, and the general secretary, Mr Malsingh Ghumman.

'Beautification Plan' at Golden Temple Continues

BK2506043388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The Punjab government has so far allotted 173 commercial sites and 58 houses to the persons being shifted under the beautification plan within 30-meter area around the Golden Temple. The project officer said in Amritsar yesterday that over 1.5 crore rupees have been disbursed as compensation to the affected people. He said the government has dropped the plan to acquire the area adjoining the Jalianwala Bag.

The governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has sought liberal central assistance to the state in view of its special problems. Presiding over the state-level meeting of the bankers'

committee in Chandigarh yesterday, he said this will help promote industry and trade. The meeting decided to form a task force to go into various aspects of bank aid.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in Jullundur District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, the encounter followed when two terrorists opened fire to the police party when challenged near Fatudhinga village under Banga police station. Both the terrorists were killed when police returned the fire. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down two farmers in Amritsar and Faridkot districts last night.

Further on 'Terrorist' Incidents in Punjab

12 Killed, 8 Injured

BK2406162788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons have been killed and 8 injured in terrorist violence since last night. In Hoshiarpur District, a farmer and his sister were gunned down in village Behrampur. Two caretakers of a religious place were shot dead in another village.

In Amritsar District, two persons, including a woman, were killed and three injured when they were watching tv in Virka village. Four farmers were killed in three other villages of the district.

In Gurdaspur District, an industrialist was shot dead in his factory in Batala town by a scooter-borne terrorist this afternoon.

In Ludhiana District, scooter-borne terrorists fired at a police picket near a local cinema. Police returned the fire killing one of the terrorists. One constable was killed and a head constable injured in the encounter.

Another terrorist was killed in Kapurthala District. The security forces have achieved a breakthrough by nabbing 13 terrorists and 20 of their harborers in massive raid in Faridkot District.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Tuesday's bomb blast in Amritsar has risen to 31 with one more victim succumbing to his injuries today.

4 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK2606092588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Haryana police arrested four terrorists at Ambala yesterday. They have been identified as Gurnam Singh alias Gama, a hardcore terrorist; Nagra alias Pradip Kumar; Gurdeep Singh; and Balkar Singh.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that Gurnam Singh was wanted in over a dozen cases of killings in Punjab. The police recovered 3 revolvers and some ammunition from their possession. One of their accomplices, identified as Juga, escaped. He was believed to be carrying explosives and automatic weapons.

The spokesman said preliminary interrogations of the arrested terrorists have revealed that they were planning a massacre at Ambala. [passage omitted]

3 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2606161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed in separate encounters with security forces last night. According to police a hardcore terrorist, Binderjit Singh, alias Sharma, was killed at Ludhiana. The encounter took place when a police party from Faridkot raided the terrorist hideout. Binderjit Singh, who was wounded in the encounter, later succumbed to his injuries. He was wanted in at least 50 terrorist crimes, including the recent killing of an advocate, an ex-Army major and two policemen.

Two more terrorists were killed in Moga Subdivision. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. One police head constable was also injured in the incident.

The police also recovered two bullet-ridden bodies of terrorists from the fields of a village in Amritsar District this morning. They are suspected to be the victims of inter-terrorist group rivalries.

Six Pakistani intruders were killed by the Border Security Force when they were trying to cross the border in the Ganga Nagar sector of Rajasthan.

Iran

Reportage on Outbreak of Fighting in Majnun Area

'Heavy Fighting' Noted

LD2506075088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Before beginning this hour's news, I invite you to pay attention to a communique: According to a Central News Unit report, as a result of the offensive mounted by the aggressor Iraqi Army against the positions of the fighters of Islam on the southern front in the Majnun Islands axis, an intensive battle has begun in the region.

On the basis of available reports, the Ba'thist Iraqi Army, using vast military resources and by extensive use of chemical weapons, attacked the positions of the fighters of Islam in the Majnun Islands this morning. According to this report, forces of the Badr Corps of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq, who are responsible for the defense of the islands, continue to

confront the aggressor with courage and perseverence despite the Iraqi mercenary army's extensive use of chemical weapons. Heavy fighting is still going on in the area.

According to this report, as a result of these encounters, considerable casualties and damages have been inflicted on the invading Iraqi forces. Several of the personnel of the participating units of the Ba'thist Army have been captured by the combatants of Islam.

Toxic Gas Forces 'Retreat'

LD2506161388 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Following an Iraqi assault against the positions of the Muslim forces in the Majnun Islands, southern fronts, heavy battles broke out in the operational region early Saturday.

According to reports reaching here, the Ba'thist Army of Iraq by employing huge military equipment and by resorting to extensive use of chemical arms launched its assault on the positions of the Muslim forces in the Majnun Islands.

The reports said the personnel of Badr Division, affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), despite the extensive use of chemical arms by the Iraqi army, put up a heroic resistance but were forced to retreat to new positions because of the enemy's heavy poison gas attacks.

Heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on the Iraqi troops and some enemy soldiers were also captured during the clashes, the reports said.

Toxins Kill 60, Injure 4,000

LD2606141188 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—More than 60 Iranian people have so far been martyred and many others injured in an Iraqi chemical attack on areas nearby Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province Saturday.

The number of the injured were estimated at about 4,000 most of whom were treated as outpatients because of minor injuries.

Most of the injured, according to reports reaching here from Ahvaz hospitals, were wounded by nerve and cyanide gases deployed by the Iraqi regime.

About 100 chemically-injured people, ten of them in criticial conditions, are hospitalised in Ahvaz.

The enemy chemical attack came after it gained control over the Majnun Islands Saturday following extensive use of chemical weapons to force Iran's Muslim combatants to retreat.

According to Dr. 'Ali Pedram, a provincial Red Crescent official in Khuzestan Province, the enemy used mustard gas in addition to nerve and cyanide gases.

'New Defensive Positions'

LD2506110688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that as a result of the offensive by the aggressor Iraqi Army against the positions of the Islamic combatants on the southern fronts, an intensive confrontation has begun in the region.

According to available reports the Ba'thist Iraqi Army, with its vast military resources and extensive use of chemical weapons. this morning attacked the Islamic fighters'positions on the Majnun Islands. This report states that forces of the Badr Corps of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, who are responsible for the island's defense, are confronting the aggressors with courage and perseverance despite the aggressor Iraqi Army's extensive use of chemical weapons.

However, because the enemy's heavy chemical weapons attacks the Islamic fighterfs have been deployed in new defensive positions. Heavy fighting between the defenders of Islam and the Zionist enemy is still in progress.

According to this report, as a result of these confrontations considerable casualties and damages have been inflicted on the enemy. Several of the personnel of the Ba'thist Army units engaged in the action have been captured by the Islamic fighters.

Communique No 3,243

LD2406170088 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Thursday reconnoitered 10 foreign vessels of various kinds, including cargo ships, oil tankers and warships, according to a military communique here today.

The 3243rd Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units continued to control shipping in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz and closely monitored movement of an Iraqi vessel in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms yesterday.

On battlefields Thursday, Iraqi troops sustained considerable losses in men and equipment in gun battles with Iran's Muslim combatants.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts yesterday, raging somewhat more heavily in Mawat and Panjwin, northwestern sector, with the former keeping the upper hand.

Heavy fire of the Muslim forces routed Iraqi troops in Yebis, Hoseyniyeh and Nahr 'Anbar, southern sector, and suppressed activities of enemy tank squadrons in Sumar and Panjwin Thursday.

On Thursday, Iranian artillery fire disrupted Iraqi logistical operations in Helaleh theater and on the Khanaqin-Banmil and Naft-e Shah-Sumar routes, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,244

LD2506180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Iranian warplanes heavily bombed economic and military installations of the Iraqi enemy in Tawuq, in Kirkuk Province, at six hours A.M. Saturday inflicting some damage on the enemy.

The Iranian jet fighters in ten separate sorties also struck at concentration camps of Iraqi forces in the operational region of Majnun Islands in order to support the Muslim combatants and returned to bases after successfully carrying out their mission.

Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Friday reconnoitered 27 vessels of various kinds including oil tankers, tug boats, launches and warships, according to a military communique here today.

The 3244th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units intercepted three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq. They also closely monitored movement of Iraqi vessels in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil rigs in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's Muslim combatants traded artillery, mortar and tank fire with Iraqi troops throughout the battlefields Friday, killing and wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying a number of gun emplacements, a muntions dump and a vehicle of theirs.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire repelled three Iraqi patrol units in Panjwin and Helaleh, northwestern and western sectors, yesterday, killing a number of enemy patrolmen.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts and a command jeep were destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

On Friday, heavy fire of Iranian combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Kani-Sheykh and Nahr 'Anbar and enemy logistical activities in Mehran and Helaleh, concluded the communique.

Air Force Bombs Majnun Area

LD2606104988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran armed forces has announced: The pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force flying their fighter-bombers heavily bombed positions, fortifications, and concentration points of the enemy forces in Khushk and the Majnun Islands at 1020 hours this morning. They all returned safely to their bases having inflicted heavy losses and damage at the enemy forces.

Iraqi Plane Downed in South

LD2506195888 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced tonight that Muslim combatants downed an Iraqi war plane in the southern fronts at 10:45 hours local time (07:15 GMT). The statement said the plane was shot down by Iran's anti-aircraft fire.

Communique No 3,245

LD2606164688 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—Iranian Air Force pilots heavily bombed Iraqi positions, fortifications and troop concentration sites in Khushk and Majnun Islands operational regions at 06:50 GMT Sunday.

The Iranian fighter-bombers inflicted substantial casualties and damage on enemy forces before returning safely to bases, said a military communique here Sunday.

Communique 3245 of the Joint Staff Command said Iran's Air Force planes effectively carried patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday reconnoitering some 31 foreign vessels.

It added Iranian naval forces controlled shipping in the Strait of Hormuz interception two foreign ships to make certain they were not carrying any cargo for Iraq.

Heavy clashes broke out between iraqi troops and Iranian Muslim combatants in Hoseyniyeh, Talah and Majnun Islands operational regions early Saturday, said the communique adding enemy forces chemically bombed the operational regions several times from 04:05 to 09:30 hours local time the same day. The Ba'thist forces also dropped chemical bombs on Jofeyr region at 07:03 hours local time Saturday, it said. Heavy clashes continued in the area till Sunday dawn, said the communique.

An Iraqi patrol group was subjected to Iranian combatants' fire in Nahr 'Anbar region and forced to flee sustaining casualties, it added.

In western and northwestern fronts, the communique said, exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged on between the Muslim combatants and Ba'thist troops. Iraqi tanks fire in Hajj 'Uumran, Shiler [placename as received] and Marivan was silenced by Iranian forces' tank fire as a result of which Iraqi armoured units sustained major damage, it added.

The communique said two Iraqi patrol groups were subjected to Iranian long-range artillery fire in Salehabad, Kani-Sheykh, Helaleh and Shur Shirin regions as a result of which Iraqi forces sustained casualties and damage, it said.

Iranian Muslim forces checked or shelled movement of Iraqi tank and armorued columns in Maymak and Mehran operational axes, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Fly Over Hamadan

LD2606170388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] According to an IRNA correspondent's report, at 1410 today aircraft of the Zionist regime of Iraq violated the airspace of Hamadan Province. After encountering anti-aircraft fire, they were forced to flee.

Mobilization Forces Leave Qom for Fronts

LD2506130088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Central News Unit correspondent's report from Qom]

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the eighth luminous guardian of the (?heavenly) imamate and guardianship, his holiness Imam Reza, may God's peace be upon him, and in continuation of the rallying of the selfless popular forces from throughout our Islamic homeland with the strong ranks of the Islamic fighters, this morning organized mobilization forces called the pioneers of the fighters of his holiness Mohammed—God's peace be upon him and his scion—the 28 June section [anniversary of the 1981 explosion at the Islamic Republican Party Headquarters] consisting of combat, specialist, redispatched, (?ideological) forces, and clergymen of Qom Seminary, undertook a glorious manuever with disciplined and united ranks in the main streets of Qom, city of blood and uprising.

Bearing portraits of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, the deputy leader, and the acting commander in chief, the brave mobilization personnel led by the dispatch clergymen of Qom Seminary chanted the enemy-crushing slogans of "War, war until victory," "The Persian Gulf of Iran, graveyard of Reagan," "Death to the United States," "Death to Israel," and "Death to Saddam." Amid the shouts of "War, war until victory" of the heroic and revolutionary people of Qom, they entered the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumah, may God's peace be upon her and her scion. After performing special religious ceremonies, they went to the garden of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and of the imposed war, renewed their allegiance with the flower-shrounded ones of Islam, prayed in commemoration of the lord of the martyrs, and left for the battlefields of justice against injustice and for training centers.

Volunteers Depart From Kashan for War Zones

LD2706122188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A large group of Mobilization volunteers from Kashan left for the war zones this morning as part of the Mohammad Corps. According to the Central News Unit, forces from bases in Kashan, Natanz, Aran, Bid Gol, (Fadrud-e Qamsar), and Nushabab participated in special ceremonies. After receiving a warm sendoff, the forces left for the battlefields from Kashan's IRGC Headquarters.

Khomeyni Appoints Yazdi Guardian Council Member

LD2506173088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, has issued a decree appointing Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi a member of the Council of Guardians.

The decree is as follows: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, may your blessings continue: With gratitude and praise for the sincere efforts of his Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Safi, may his blessings continue, I appoint you to the Council of Guardians. This appointment is in recognition of your piety and your familiarity with Islam and the revolution and is in accordance with Article 91 of the Constitution.

I wish you success in drafting laws that will please God and will assist the deprived and oppressed among Iran's Islamic society.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 25 Jun 1988

Yazdi Replaces Safi

LD2706131788 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni received a group of personnel of information Ministry, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC), and Basij [mobilization] forces on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Reza (A.S.) here today. [passage omitted]

In another development, Imam Khomeyni appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Yazdi a member of the Council of Guardians Saturday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi, who succeeds Hojjat ol-Eslam Lotfollah Safi, previously served as vice-speaker of Majlis (Parliament) in the first and second terms.

Khomeyni Receives Groups of Fighters, Others
LD2606115388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] On the anniversary of the auspicious blessed birth of the eighth imam of the world's Shi'ites, His hOliness 'Ali ibn Musa al-Reza, God's peace be upon him, a group of the IRGC brothers from north Tehran and their families; a group of brothers from the Ministry of Information; a gathering of Islamic Revolution Committee guards; a group of Mobilization Forces brothers; and a gathering of Hezbollah people, martyrs' families, and Lebanese Hezbollah combatants met Imam Khomeyni this morning at his Jamaran residence.

In the meeting, Mr Seraj ol-Din Musavi, the imam's representative and commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, expressed his felicitations on the occasion of this auspicious day and introduced those present to the imam of the ummah. He informed the commander in chief of the readiness of the Hezbollah people and Mobilization Forces to go to the battlefronts in the 28 June [anniversary of bomb explosion at Islamic Republican Party Headquarters in 1981] dispatch.

In this section of the news we draw your attention to the details of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] [crowd shouts support] I thank the great leader for giving the dear brothers this opportunity to see him. Congratulations and greetings to the great leader on the occasion of the birth of the eight luminous guardian of the guardianship [velayat], the exposer of duplicity, His Holiness 'Ali ibn Musa al-Reza. The brothers who today have the good fortune of seeing his eminence are a group of the district's IRGC brothers, accompanied by their families, who are engaged in around-the-clock efforts; a group of dear ones from the Ministry of Information, the unknown soldiers of the imam of the ummah, who guard the people's security and safety dau and night; a gathering of dear guards from the Islamic Revolution Committee; and a group of the dear Mobilization Forces who are ready for the 28 June dispatch, the anniversary of the martyrdom of 72 of the great martyrs of the revolution, including martyr Ayatollah Beheshti and martyr Mohammad Montazeri, the child of Islam and the Koran.

The gathering has presented itself to meet the imam of the ummah once again and to declare its readiness ato join the dispatch to the battlefronts of justice against injustice. While thanking our great imam for giving these dear guards the opportunity to meet him, we offer our constant prayer and ask for long life for the great leader. Dear God! Dear God! Preserve Khomeyni until the revolution of the Mahdi [the twelfth imam]. [crowd chants] [end recording]

Jailed Briton Urges UK To Make 'Policy Changes'
LD2406175388 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] London, June 24, IRNA—Britisher Roger Cooper jailed in Iran for spying says that he holds his government responsible for the soured relations between Britain and Islamic Iran and urges a series of policy changes to rectify the past misdeeds.

"I believe that we should be frank and publish all relevant documents affecting our previous relations with Iran," he says and lists such British involements as in Reza Khan's rise to power in the 1920s, its invasion in 1941, the accession of Pahlavi's son (Mohammad Reza who was toppled by the Islamic Revolution in 1979), the 1953 coup against Mossadeq as well as "other lurking skeletons."

Cooper's recommendations are made in a 16-page letter sent to the Foreign Office via the British parliamentary delegation which was recently in Iran. Extracts are published in Friday's Western MORNING NEWS, a southwest England daily where Cooper comes from.

He suggests that these involvements may not be easy for the U.K. Government to admit to and proposes that Britain should show the kind of action that the U.N. secretary general has apparently in mind in identifying the aggressor to end the Iraqi war.

Other problem areas recognised by Roger Cooper jailed for spying, include London's hostile attitude to the Islamic Revolution, its widely perceived bias in favour of the Iraqi regime's war and Britain's unquestionable towing of U.S. policy.

"We know Iran as well, or better, than the Americans, so why should we follow their lead here, which has been consistently wrong for the past 35 years," he admits.

Cooper goes on to strongly urge the Foreign Office to improve its relations with Islamic Iran even if this means redressing Britain's previous wrongs.

For himself, Roger Cooper who had spent 20 years in Iran as a 'journalist' before the Islamic Revolution, would like to see better consular access for British prisoners in Iran, but at the same time asks if British jails meet religious needs for Muslims.

Conditions for Relations With UK Outlined

LD2406182388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] In the middle of the week, four British MP's [members of Parliament], that is, three members of the House of Commons and one member of the House of Lords, arrived in Tehran. The visit was arranged by the archbishop of Canterbury and was characterized by his office as a factfinding visit. The British parliamentary delegation, whose members represented the three main parties in that country, met several responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is said that this delegation's visit to Tehran was arranged to coincide with signs of improvement in bilateral relations. Although the British Foreign Office announced it did not know of this trip in advance, in view of the sensitivity of the issue and the close ties between the church and the British Government in foreign affairs, London's protestations of ignorance are not credible. In view of the fact that no British parliamentary or state official has visited Iran since the Islamic Revolution began and since bilateral relations reached their lowest point a year ago, it seems that the British Government now intends to cautiously begin mending bilateral relations through indirect comments.

Britain has agreed to pay 1.8 million pounds for the damage suffered by the Iranian Embassy in London. Moreover, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe condemned the deployment of chemical weapons and stressed the need for international action to prevent the use of such weapons in remarks at the United Nations. Although the remarks were made without directly mentioning the Iraqi regime, they are viewed by political observers as a British desire to improve relations with the Islamic Republic. In this same connection, THE GUARDIAN wrote: Although the British Government has tried to keep its links with the parliamentary delegation to Tehran secret, it is highly interested in seeing some positive signs from Tehran.

During its visit to Tehran, the British delgation met and conferred with the prime minister's political deputy and also the political deputy of the deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs. During these meetings, Mr Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy, explained the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and compared it with prerevolutionary policy. He said: The Islamic Republic, in accordance with the principles of the Islamic Revolution, favors having relations with other countries. While referring to the point that we welcome any step taken with the intention of recognizing the reality of the Islamic Revolution, he said: On this basis, foreign countries that want to have just relations with the Islamic Republic should understand that a nation which has created one of the greatest revolutions in the world will never accept the imposition of unequal relations.

Referring to the incorrect British policy of supporting the war-mongering Iraqi regime in the imposed war and the escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf, he said: We want other countries to remain neutral in the war and refrain from interfering in the Persian Gulf. In conclusion, Mo'ayeri said the future positions of the British Government in the face of the imposed war, chemical weapons, and the Persian Gulf situation will affect the level of relations.

As a whole, Islamic Republic officials criticized the positions of the British Government in its alignment with the United States against the Islamic Revolution, its refusal to identify the aggressive Iraqi regime as the initiator of the war, and the British Government's indifference in the face of Iraq's repeated deployment of chemical weapons.

Velayati on Resuming Ties With UK, Canada

LD2506170288 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday that Iran and France have resumed full-scale relations on the basis of mutual interest.

In an interview with the Central News Bureau (CNB) here Velayati said Tehran-London relations have relatively improved, and that preliminary talks were underway on resumption of Tehran-Ottawa ties.

Velayati who is just back from Romania and Italy said Iran's diplomatic ties with world countries are based on its principles, "and we have a clear-cut policy in this regard."

He said the Islamic Republic will discontinue its ties with any country which opposed its foreign policy principles.

Iran wants to have relations with other countries but not at the cost of its prestige. The Islamic Republic he said will not deal on its principles and therefore, he added, "We will confront any kind of pressure."

Elsewhere Velayati termed his three-day visit to Bucharest and his short stopover in Rome as "successful" and said Iran and Romania are to meet at ministerial level in their forthcoming joint economic commission.

The foreign minister also criticised the indifference of international forums towards the Iraq-Iran war and said the U.N. Security Council kept silence when the Iraqi regime initiated its aggression on Iran, but when Iranian combatants forced the Iraqi troops to retreat, Baghdad's supporters started their peace cries.

The Security Council will not reach any result unless it finds a just and honorable solution to the conflict, Velayati stressed.

Velayati Writes to UN on Iraqi Gas Attacks

LD2606170888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 & GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Following the deployment of chemical weapons by the Zionist regime of Iraq in the imposed war, Foreign Minister Velayati wrote a letter to the UN secretary general. Referring to the crimes committed by the Baghdad regime in the imposed war, including the attacks on cities and ships and the use of chemical weapons and poison gases, he declared: These crimes are committed to undermine the operations of the fighters of Islam and are prime examples of the terrible deeds of the criminal Iraqi regime which have shocked the world's conscience. However, in the face of all these inhuman deeds, the UN has either kept quiet or adopted a lukewarm position.

Of course, this is while many countries and independant political figures have expressed their deep concern over these crimes and have condemned them.

In the letter, our country's foreign minister stresses: If international bodies procrastinate in defending the rights of innocent people who are being martyred by the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran would consider it its right to take appropriate measures to defend itself.

Velayati Returns From Visit to Romania, Italy

LD2406124388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who was on a visit to Romania, having been officially invited by the Romanian foreign minister to visit that country, returned to Tehran this morning. During his return journey, he had a 24-hour stopover in Rome during which he talked with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti about issues related to the two countries and the situation of the region. During his visit to Romania, Velayati conveyed to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu a friendly message from our country's president. In addition to discussing international issues, the officials of the two countries also talked about expanding bilateral relations in the fields of science, technology, and economics.

Comments on Results of Visits

LD2406230488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, you have been to Romania and Italy in the past few days. Please tell us why you went and what results you achieved.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My trip to Romania was at the invitation of Romanian Foreign Minister Totu. It was in fact to reciprocate for his trip to Tehran 2 years ago. Iranian-Romanian relations are long-standing and friendly; they have improved in various fields over the past few years. Delegations have constantly been exchanged at various levels.

During this visit, I met the Romanian president, the parliamentary speaker, and the foreign minister three times. I also met the health minister and some lecturers at the Bucharest School of Medicine, exchanging information on scientific issues and medical research carried out in Iran. In the near future a joint committee will be set up in Bucharest. The planning minister will go there to represent Iran.

My trip to Rome was in fact a short stopover in that country. I met Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti and exchanged views on mutual relations and international issues. In view of the fact that Iran and Italy cooperate in various development and industrial fields, and that there is some similarity in some of our policies on political and international issues, our officials should meet once in a while. This visit was along those lines.

[Correspondent] The United Nations has announced that in the next few days it will send a mission to Iran to investigate Iraqi use of chemical weapons. Please tell us when this invitation was issued. Can such a visit be useful?

[Velayati] This invitation was issued several weeks ago after Resolution 612 regarding Iraq's use of chemical weapons was passed. The Iraqi regime repeatedly used chemical weapons against us. We repeatedly reported this to the United Nations and asked that, in accordance with Security Council approval, the secretary general send delegations to inspect the locations and investigate the effects of the weapons used. He should do this as soon as reports on the use of chemical weapons, which openly contravenes the recent Security Council resolution, are received.

Unfortunately, a few weeks passed and the Security Council delayed sending a delegation, and now most of the traces of Iraqi chemical weapons have been destroyed. This procrastination and delay is definitely politically motivated; Iraq's protectors have influenced the Security Council. In our opinion, they intend to send the delegations after delays and procrastination. In any case, sending delegations to investigate Iraq's use of chemical weapons could have positive results.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Musavi Interviewed on DPRK Premier's Visit

LD2406142788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Remarks by DPRK Premier Yi Kun-mo prior to his departure from Tehran is the topic of our next report.

According to a Central News Unit report, the North Korean leader, in an interview with reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, thanked the nation and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their hospitality and mentioned the good memories he has of his visit to our country. He then said: In this visit the sincere and friendly message of Mr Kim Il-song, the president of Korea, was delivered to President Khamene'i. Mr Khamene'i was also informed of Mr Kim Il-song's great interest in expanding and deepening relations between the two countries.

Referring to his meetings with high-ranking officials of our country, the premier said: These talks covered the expansion of bilateral cooperation, and political and international topics. We were agreed in all topics of principle.

He added: The two countries have supported and cooperated with each other in all fields. Fortunately, ties of friendship and solidarity between the two nations and peoples are expanding daily. We are very happy about the progress achieved.

Referring to the U.S. conspiracy in the Persian Gulf, the DPRK premier said: U.S. imperialism has devised various plots against the Islamic Revolution of Iran and has also increased its aggressive more in the Persian Gulf. In our talks with the Iranian officials we strongly condemned the U.S. aggression, interference, and conspiracy in the Gulf. We declared our solidarity with the struggles of the people of Iran against the United States. He added: Our talks emphasized coordination of efforts in condemning Israel and South Africa, as well as in supporting the Nonaligned Movement.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi replied to our colleague's questions on the achievements of this visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, please discuss the achievements of the DPRK premier's visit and the relations between the two countries and the fields for bilateral cooperation.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During this visit we discussed topics of interest to both countries. Since the victory of the revolution we have had very friendly relation with the DPRK. These relations have been very fruitful, particularly during the war period. Our political and commercial relations have been constantly expanding. Obviously, these visits have been very influential in expanding ties. North Korea is among the handful of countries that exchanges many missions with us. Each of these visits has been instrumental in expanding our relations. For example, the commercial exchanges in the fields of products, fisheries, technology, and similar fields have been fruitful. More importantly, these visits have brought about a political situation which has enabled us to coordinate in international policies. For instance, one can cite the two countries' anti-imperialist campaigns.

In the same way that the United States is busy plotting in the Persian Gulf, it is also busy plotting against the DPRK and in the Far East. Exchanging views in these fields as well as the support the two governments offer one another will certainly be very effective in their anti-imperialist campaigns.

During this visit we discussed various regional topics. We also spoke about world problems, international organizations, and the war. We explained our problems; we also explained the plots against the Islamic Revolution. The North Korean side also discussed various problems existign in the Far East.

On a whole, I can say that the negotiations were very fruitful. I feel that this visit will lead to a new phase in our relationship with the DPRK. I see the future of our relations in a wider perspective.

[Correspondent] What was achieved regarding international cooperation and nonalignment?

[Musavi] The Nonaligned Movement is of interest to both countries. Therefore, a considerable part of our talks was devoted to strengthening this movement. Both of us believe that the Nonaligned Movement must return to its original principles if it is to gain strength, that is, it must follow a truly nonaligned path. In this way the movement can gain the strength to play a fitting role in the international arena.

[Correspondent] Did you reach agreement on the sale of oil and the purchase of nonoil goods?

[Musavi] We will sign a memorandum of understanding as a result of the efforts of the joint commissions. It covers the question of purchases and cooperation in technology, mining, and fisheries, as well as nonoil exports and imports. We hope the responsible teams and officials of the two countries will follow up on this. [end recording]

IRNA Examines Michael Dukakis' Candidacy

LD2506183988 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] London, June 25, IRNA—The kindest thing here being said about the foreign policy of U.S. Presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis is that he has not travelled widely for somone of his age of 54.

The Democratic Candidate from Massachusetts is chided, not only by his political opponents as the "Jimmy Carter of the North" having a moralising tone in international affairs and an inexperience possibly greater than even Ronald Reagan.

Writer for THE NEW REPUBLIC in Washington, Fred Barnes, likens the campaign of Dukakis as though he is running to be the secretary general of the U.N. and appears "never heard of an international organization whose judgment he would not substitute for that of an American president."

His seeming policy in the Persian Gulf is that he would not have followed Reagan's example of a military build-up against Iran nor tilted so strongly towards Iraq but offers no alternative other than that they are matters for the U.N.

On the other hand, Barnes sees Dukakis as being the first Democrat to have fully exploited the very foundation of the Irangate scandal, that has so much dogged the campaign of his rival Vice-President George Bush, yet still alleges that Iran sponsors terrorism.

The fear now suggested in the U.S. is that the presidential race is left between a vice-president tainted with failure in foreign policy initiatives and one unable to grasp any concept of international relations.

Barnes says that even as far back as last October, Democratic insiders were more bothered about the "stiff, priggish and moralistic" attitude of Dukakis than his inexperience in foreign affairs.

One consolation seen for the front-runner, even if it is no substitute, is that his fluency in Spanish and working knowledge of Greek and French would mean that he could be the most multilingual president since Thomas Jefferson nearly 200 years ago.

Jamarani on Hajj, Relations With Saudi Arabia

LD2506174088 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 25, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's representative in Hajj and Endowments Organisation Mahdi Imam Jamarani said today nothing can prevent Iranian hajj pilgrims from fulfilling their hajj rites according to Koran and sunna of Prophet Mohammad (SAW).

Imam Jamarani currently in Lahore to take part in a hajj seminar noted that the Saudi regime had agreed two years ago to receive 200,000 Iranian pilgrims this year but later lowered the number to 40,000.

The imam's representative said if Pakistan or any other friendly country could make the Hijaz regime understand that it should admit the agreed number of Iranian hajj pilgrims then Iran would agree to mediation by that country for normalizaton of ties with Hijaz.

The two day hajj seminar released a resolution condemning the efforts of the Saudi regime in preventing Iranians from entering Mecca.

A large group of ulema, unversity professors, lawyers, and cultural and political figures as well as people from all walks of life attended the seminar in Lahore which ended last night.

Air Force Rebuilds Planes, Helicopters

LD2706095888 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Tehran] June 27, IRNA—Several rebuilt Air Force planes including T-33's, F-5's and 43 and 214 helicopters were test flown Sunday. The aircraft were rebuilt by the personnel of the Iranian Air Force. Iran-made 'Parasto' airplanes were also test flown yesterday.

Present in the ceremony were Defence Minister General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, Air Force Commander General Mansur Sattari and several military officials and Air Force sub-commanders.

Pakistan

9 Killed in Peshawar Hotel Bomb Blast 25 Jun

BK2506062488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] It has been learned now that the number of the persons killed due to a bomb blast in a hotel at Namak Mandi Chowk of Peshawar has climbed to nine as five more bodies have been recovered from the debris. The bomb blast, which occurred early today, completely destroyed two stories of the hotel. Relief operations are continuing.

Ziaul Haq Address on Economic Priorities

BK2606051988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1515 GMT 25 Jun 88

[President Ziaul Haq's address to the nation on the annual budget; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. As you know, this is the last month of the current fiscal year, and during this month the government in power usually presents the annual budget. The reason I am speaking to you this evening is to tell you about our directions and priorities in fiscal matters and what the national budget to be presented tomorrow will reflect. Before mentioning economic matters, I would like to make a general appeal that although the time for the present caretaker government is very limited, our priorities are quite clear and all

lead toward the enforcement of the Islamic system. You may recall that the first basic and concrete step I took after 29 May [date of dissolution of the National Assembly and provincial assemblies] was the enforcement of the shari'a ordinance, which was long-awaited. Today I will very briefly identify some important points of the government's economic policy in the light of Islamic principles. You will get details of all this in the address by Federal Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq scheduled for tomorrow.

After the economic system, the third point discussed will be the Islamic judicial system. In a few days, I will, God willing, make an announcement about the necessary steps now under consideration by the government.

While referring to the Islamic economic system, first of all, I would like to mention a lesson I have learned in the past 11 years: The principles and the requirements of politics and economics are different. You may make political gains through sound economic measures, but for the sake of political gains economic principles cannot be ignored. I have to say with regret that in the past, while ignoring this important basic point, the economic principles were sacrificed for the sake of cheap political gains and that is how the country has reached near bankruptcy. Now, it is not easy to introduce an Islamic economic system after rectifying this situation. We cannot enforce this system merely by waving a magic wand nor by pressing a button. For this to happen, continuous solid thinking, planning, and durable strategy is needed. You may recall that we initiated steps toward an Islamic economic system 7 or 8 years ago, and the economy of the country also started moving to a certain extent along Islamic principles. However, in the past few years, the political and economic irregularities that have shaken the foundations of the country in many other sectors also halted the progress of the country toward an Islamic economic system. The aim of every economic position, every fiscal policy, and every fiscal measure of the past government was aimed at one and one thing only—to maintain its hold on power. A few of the ploys adopted for this purpose were the writing off of loans worth crores of rupees in order to buy the loyalty of some people; the allotment of countless plots of land to ensure political cooperation; the issuance of various kinds of permits and licences to keep influential supporters happy, without any consideration of merit; and the consideration of national banks as personal property and subsequent manipulation. These are a few examples of the (?misdeeds) in which the former government was involved. [passage omitted]

One of the main requirements of Islamic law is to prevent wealth being held in the hands of a few people or a few families in order to establish a balanced society based on equality. Many problems will be created in society if wealth is in the hands of just a few people. Except for a few God-fearing people, most of the rich people indulge in ostentatious expenditure, luxury, and pomp and pageantry, and are unsympathetic to suffering citizens and victims of [word indistinct] in social relations. For this reason Islam has many injunctions against the amassing of wealth. I think for anyone who fails to follow these injunctions and wastes money on luxury and lavish living, wealth becomes a curse rather than a blessing. [passage omitted]

There are many persons in our society who aspire to become wealthy. Let them flourish. We do not have any objection. However, when they start amassing wealth blindly, without discriminating between between legal and illegal means, then I think it is necessary for their own health and the health of society that the government takes some steps. This problem will be on top of the list of priorities for the next fiscal year. There are also many people who have received loans from government financial institutions and had these loans written off by using personal influence or political pressure. I have mentioned these cases before. Their names will be publicly disclosed and each and every cent of the money they owe will be recovered. And, those unauthorized persons who have secured plots or land deeds through political or personal influence will also be scrutinized. [passage omitted] We will initiate these urgent measures without delay. Further measures will be taken in light of recommendations of the economic commission, a commission I mentioned when the shari'a ordinance was announced.

The next problem is to provide employment opportunities for the younger generation, some of who are unemployed and some underemployed. The government is aware of the concerns of both these groups. Their absorption by government institutions, however, is not possible. One solution we have thought about is to start a comprehensive and workable program of industrialization of the country through regular planning. In this program, the private sector will play a leading role along with the public sector so that more people are given employment opportunities in new factories. The government will strongly encourage both domestic and foreign investment to open new factories. Under this strategy, special measures are being taken to set up industries in comparatively less-developed and backward areas, measures described in detail in the budget. These are very liberal measures in the field of industrialization. Other than this, those industries using raw materials available in Pakistan will be given priority. [passage omitted]

Our economic policies are based on the Islamic system. You may recall that our entire economic system has been operating on interest rates. We took several measures after 1977 to gradually change this system. We introduced interest-free banking and allowed transactions with government financial institutions on the basis of loss and profit sharing; and we enforced the zakat [2.5 percent tax on capital for spendings on the needy] and usher [donation of 10 percent of agriculture produce] system. However, even then the expected all-round change in the society could not be achieved. I think the main reason was that we were unable to totally eliminate the interest system, which is clearly forbidden by the

holy Koran, from our economic life. Now our highest priority is to establish an interest-free economy. Please pray that God blesses us in implementing this task. This is the need of the hour, as well as the government's main responsibility. You will hear mention of various measures in this connection in the budget. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, let us now ponder where we will get the money for these drinking water schemes and other welfare work. The government does not have trees with money growing on them. The government's sources of income are limited and fixed, and one of them is taxes. In the developed nations, the payment of taxes is considered such a sacred duty that if anybody does not pay taxes then he is considered an enemy of society. However, in our society taxes are considered as a punishment or penalty and so everyone tries to evade paying. In my view, the tax evader is worse than a murderer because the murderer only kills one person, while the tax evader is the murderer of society. I do not want to get involved in a comparison of zakat and taxes, but I would like to say that the person who earns more than a specified amount in this country will have to pay taxes under the law in addition to zakat. I want to establish a new tradition in this connection. I, God willing, will publicly file returns on my income and assets in accordance with the current procedure in the relevant department and I expect that my colleagues, senior government officials, executives of private organizations, businessmen, industrialists, and political personalities will also file their returns. I also appeal to all my countrymen to voluntarily and happily pay their taxes because this money is not going into anybody's pocket but will be spent on the country's progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

You will be happy to know that some revolutionary changes are being brought about in the present tax system which will provide many concessions to persons earning their income virtuously and paying their taxes voluntarily. The tax evaders will be taken to task. Legislation is being prepared to deal with tax evaders under which the culprits will not only be given rigorous imprisonment, but their property and their families' property, movable and fixed, will be confiscated.

Apart from nefarious acts of tax evasion, one more social evil which badly affects our economy is smuggling. Appropriate steps are also being taken to prevent smuggling and the present laws are being made more strict. Now the smugglers will not only be dealt with more sternly than before, but all smuggled goods will be burned, except for gold, silver, and currency which will be turned over to the treasury. [passage omitted]

Yaqub Khan Leaves on Official Visit to PRC

BK2606092488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that he will ascertain the prospects of increasing trade between Pakistan and China. He said this while talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport prior to his departure on [words indistinct] official visit to China this morning. The foreign minister hoped that he could exchange views with his PRC counterpart on recent world events and the regional situation, including Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan Arrives in PRC

For Chinese media reportage of the visit to the PRC by Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, see the Near East & South Asia subsection of the "International Affairs" section of the 27 June China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Acting Sind Governor Views Regional Situation

BK2506102388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The acting governor of Sind, Retired General Rahimuddin Khan, has said that he will give top priority to the restoration of law and order in the province.

Talking informally with newsmen after an oath taking ceremony for the caretaker cabinet in Karachi today, he said he will visit the affected areas of the province in a day or two and meet people from various walks of life to learn the reasons for the current disturbances. He added he will try to end the differences between various population groups and convince them to work together for the overall progress of the province.